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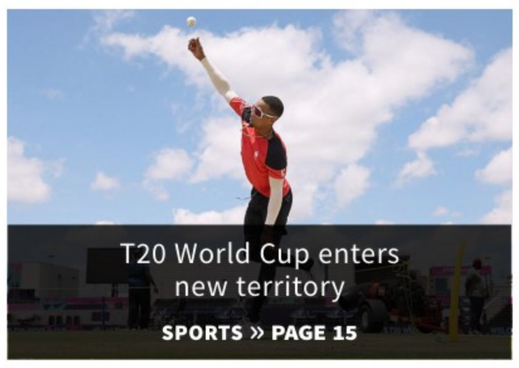
Ramaphosa's ANC loses majority in South Africa

WORLD » PAGE 14

Prajwal's mother fails to appear before SIT

KARNATAKA » PAGE 5



T20 World Cup enters new territory

SPORTS » PAGE 15

NDA will form govt. for third time, say exit polls

Surveys project around 360 seats for NDA and around 150 for INDIA bloc; BJP is predicted to keep its strongholds in the north and the west, get support from the east and make gains in the south

Vignesh Radhakrishnan
CHENNAI

All major exit polls published after the conclusion of the seventh and the last phase of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, predicted a third term for the Bharatiya Janata Party-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

The polls indicated that the NDA may win close to 360 seats. On the other hand, the INDIA bloc is projected to win nearly 150 seats.

Parties that are not attached to either side, including the Biju Janata Dal and the Trinamool Congress, may end up securing the rest of the 30-odd seats.

The actual results will be out on June 4.

Many polls indicated that while the NDA is holding on to many of its strongholds in the north and the west, it is also getting overwhelming support from the east, while making significant gains in the southern States.

Polls indicated that the NDA will win more seats than the Trinamool Congress in West Bengal and the BJD in Odisha.

In Bihar too, the ruling party and its partners are expected to cross the 30-seat mark out of the 40 seats.

The polls also showed a minor setback in Maharashtra for the NDA, where it won 41 seats out of 48 in 2019.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 7

Pollsters' predictions

Exit polls predict a comfortable majority for the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance in the 18th Lok Sabha

Source	NDA	INDIA	Others
Dainik Bhaskar	281-350	145-201	33-49
India News- D-Dynamics	371	125	47
Jan Ki Baat	362-392	141-161	10-20
News Nation	342-378	153-169	21-23
India TV - CNX	371-401	109-139	28-38
India Today - Axis	361-401	131-166	8-20
Today's Chanakya	400 ± 15	107 ± 11	36 ± 9

Saffron surge: BJP workers during a campaign rally of Narendra Modi in Hoshiarpur, Punjab. ANI

INDIA will win 295 seats: Kharge

NEW DELHI
The INDIA bloc will win at least 295 seats, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said at the end of a meeting of 13 Opposition parties at his residence in Delhi on Saturday, offering a counter to the exit polls figures. » PAGE 8

On a high note: People walk to vote at the world's highest polling station at Tashigang in Himachal Pradesh on Saturday. PTI

Last phase records 62% voter turnout

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

After six weeks, voting for the 2024 Lok Sabha election, which began on April 19, concluded with a nearly 62.23% turnout in the seventh and last phase on Saturday.

In West Bengal, where nine seats went to the polls, violence was reported from Sandeshkhali (Basirhat constituency) and Bhangar (Jadavpur seat).

West Bengal recorded the highest voter turnout at 73.56%. The lowest voting percentage was recorded in Bihar at 51.92%.

The turnout was 70% in Himachal Pradesh, 70.66% in Jharkhand, 70.67% in Odisha, 61.29% in Punjab, 55.59% in Uttar Pradesh and 67.90% in Chandigarh.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 7
MORE REPORTS » PAGE 8

BJP's defamation case: Special court directs Rahul Gandhi to appear personally on June 7

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A special court in Bengaluru on Saturday directed Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to appear personally before it on June 7 without fail in a defamation case lodged by the Bharatiya Janata Party's State unit for issuing "defamatory" advertisements in mainstream newspapers. The advertisement accused the BJP government of indulging in large-scale corruption during its 2019-2023 rule.

Meanwhile, the court granted bail to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister and Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president D.K. Shivakumar after they appeared before the court on Saturday.

Rahul Gandhi

K.N. Shivakumar, judge of the Special Court of Magistrate for criminal cases against former and present MPs and MLAs from Karnataka, passed the order while setting June 7 as the date for Mr. Gandhi's personal appearance.

As Mr. Gandhi did not appear personally before the court despite an assurance given by his advocate during an earlier hearing on April 29, the advocate representing BJP objected to granting exemption to Mr. Gandhi and pleaded for issuance of a bailable warrant for his appearance. The BJP's advocate argued that the court cannot grant exemption more than once at this stage as already exemption was given to him once on April 29 on the ground of ongoing elections.

However, Mr. Gandhi's advocate said the Congress leader could not appear as was assured during the last hearing due to a meeting of a group of political parties scheduled to be held in New Delhi on Saturday. His advocate assured the court that Mr. Gandhi would appear before the Court on June 7. However, the court pointed out to Mr. Gandhi's advocate that the date for his appearance was fixed as June 1 on his request.

After hearing the arguments, the court reserved its order till evening to examine whether to grant another chance for appearance or issue a bailable warrant.

The BJP had alleged in its complaint filed in June 2023 that "false, baseless, and reckless" allegations were made under the title 'Corruption rate card' in the advertisements issued by the accused persons on May 5, 2023, in all the mainstream newspapers in Karnataka during campaigning for the Assembly polls. The advertisements were issued by the KPCC through Mr. Shivakumar, in his capacity as its president and by Mr. Siddaramaiah, as the then Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly, it was alleged in the complainant. It pointed out that Mr. Gandhi had put up these "defamatory advertisements" on his X account.

Valmiki corpn. scam case: Two arrested

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) arrested two officials of Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribe Development Corporation – former managing director J.B. Padmanabha and accountant Parushurama G. – for allegedly misappropriating funds.

The two, who were on the run, were arrested on the outskirts of Bengaluru and taken into custody after producing them before the court. The State government had already suspended them on charges of dereliction of duty, negligence and violation of financial rules.

FULL REPORT ON » PAGE 5

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NEARBY

Rain causes inconvenience to people

BENGALURU
Rain lashed the city after a brief hiatus inconveniencing commuters who had to wade through flooded roads. According to the data shared by the BBMP, nine trees and 32 branches fell till 7 p.m. The BBMP managed to clear four trees and 18 branches.

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CLASSIFIEDS » PAGES 2 & 4
MAGAZINE » 8 PAGES

CET: 2.74 lakh students secure eligibility for engineering courses

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The results of the Common Entrance Test (CET), the gateway to professional courses, were announced on Saturday. As many as 2,74,595 students secured eligibility for engineering courses this year.

The Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) announced the results suddenly at 5 p.m. without intimating students or the media. Instead of the usual practice of announcing a date for the announcement of results followed by a press conference, this time, KEA sent a press note regarding the results to the media.

Students, taken by surprise, scrambled to see the results on the website, resulting in a network jam.

Kalyan V., Nihar S.R., and Harsha Karthikeya Vutukuri

Harsha Karthikeya Vutukuri of Narayana Olympiad School, Sahakaranagar, Bengaluru, emerged as the State topper in the engineering stream and also bagged the second rank in B-Pharma (Pharmacy). "My preparation was mainly focused on JEE (Advanced) exams, so it helped in the CET preparations. My college teaches advanced portions also. I am waiting for my JEE (Advanced) result and want to pursue Computer Science in IIT Madras or Bombay," he said.

Nihar S.R. from Expert Pre-University Science College, Mangaluru, got the first rank in Bachelor of Naturopathy and Yogic Sciences (BNYS) and B.Sc. (Agriculture). He also secured the third rank in B.V.Sc. (Veterinary), fifth rank in B-Pharma (Pharmacy) and Pharma-D, respectively, and third rank in B.Sc nursing. "I was spending 13 to 14 hours studying, and I was preparing for JEE and NEET exams and wrote the CET as a practice exam. I am still deciding what to pursue. It depends on my JEE (Advanced) rank," he said.

Kalyan V. of Sri Chaitanya Techno School, Marathahalli, Bengaluru, secured the top rank in four streams: B.V.Sc (Veterinary), B-Pharma, Pharma-D, and B.Sc Nursing.

"Going through the NCERT textbooks and solving question papers helped me. The syllabus overlapped, but I revised it very rigorously. I am aiming to get into the AIIMS or JIPMER," he said.

RELATED REPORT » PAGE 2

All about shade: White tigers rest, while a water sprinkler cools them at the National Zoological Park in New Delhi. ANI

Lazy days: Monkeys have a lethargic afternoon at the Indira Gandhi Zoological Park in Visakhapatnam. K. R. DEEPAK

Icy treat: A sloth bear set to savour ice popsicle to beat the heat in the Mumbai Zoo. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Bare necessities

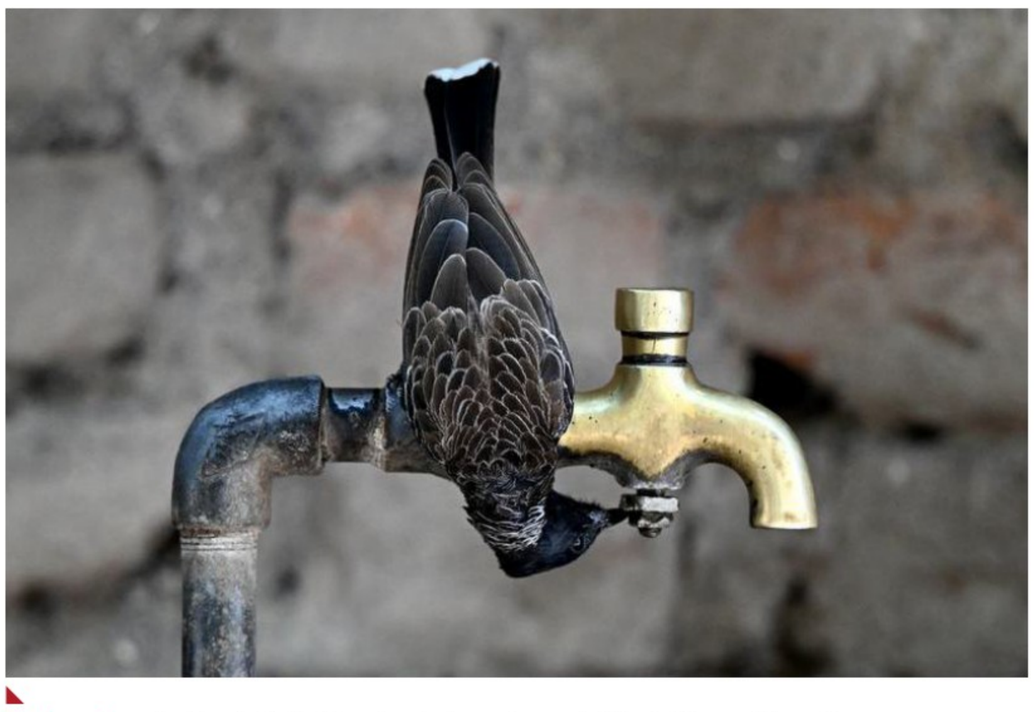
Come summer, zoos across the country initiate a special management plan to keep animals cool and hydrated; showers and sprinklers are put in place, frozen vegetables or meat are given to improve liquid intake and vets monitor the health of their wards

Wild animals stay away from trouble thanks to their instincts that forewarn them, unless it's sudden danger, such as a landslip or a raging forest fire. However, in zoos, the animals are dependent on people to cope with stressful situations such as extreme weather. This year, the country witnessed record summer temperatures, with heatwaves starting early. Animals too can fall sick, faint or suffer heatstroke.

As most zoos are located in the concrete jungles of cities, authorities had to make special arrangements to keep the animals under their care safe from the searing sun. Popsicles of frozen vegetables and meat were on the menu, and arrangements made for sprinklers and coolers to help the animals cope with the heat.

A keen eye is kept on the health of animals in the Mumbai zoo. The diet is planned keeping in mind the weight of an animal. In summer, ice popsicles are made with various vegetables. Sloth bears, elephants, and monkeys enjoy seasonal fruits such as jackfruit and watermelon. The big cats are fed ice cakes of buffalo meat. For aquatic birds, there are fish popsicles. This diet keeps them hydrated, as water is taken in along with the food. The National Zoological Park in New Delhi has a set of doctors who are also studying the effect of the heat on the animals. "We have shifted to a summer management diet, which includes a more liquid diet as well as all the seasonal fruits and vegetables which contain more water," Sanjeet Kumar, Zoo Director, told the news agency ANI.

The Arignar Anna Zoological Park in Chennai has covered the top of the aviaries with gunny bags, on which water is sprinkled, to keep the birds cool. The elephants get refreshing showers, the chimpanzees spend time under sprinklers and a thatch over the reptile pond gives the crocodiles more shade.



Precious drops: A red-vented bulbul takes in water from a tap on a hot day in Solapur, Maharashtra. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

CBSE and ICSE students dominate top 10 rank list

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

This year, too, CBSE and ICSE students dominated the top 10 rank list compared to State board students in the CET results, which were announced on Saturday (June 1). Out of 70 ranks in the top 10 list of seven streams, only three went to state board students. The remaining 67 ranks were secured by CBSE and ICSE students.

The questions declared "out of syllabus" by the experts committee (Physics Q-09, Chemistry Q-15, Mathematics Q-15, and Biology Q-11) were excluded for evaluation, and grace marks of one each were given for Physics and Maths.

Out of 3,49,653 students who registered for CET, 3,10,314 candidates appeared. Of them, 2,74,595 are eligible for engineering. Compared to the previous year, the number of candidates eligible to get engineering seats has gone up by 71,214 this year.

In the BNYS course, 2,19,483 students are eligible: 2,15,965 students are eligible for B.Sc (Agri), 2,19,887 for B.V.Sc., 2,78,919 for B. Pharma, 2,79,313 for Pharma-D, and 2,28,058 for B.Sc (Nursing).

The merit list has been prepared based on the revised "key answers" prepared by subject experts and hosted on the KEA website. The release said the best marks secured in the two examinations conducted by the Karnataka State Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB) were taken into account while considering the PU marks in the subjects.

The release added that to maintain transparency, the answers marked in the OMRs of all the candidates and key answers will be hosted on the KEA website. The candidates may check these with reference to the replica copy of the OMR sheets issued on the day of the exam.

It has been informed that the assignment of ranks does not confer the right of a candidate to select the seats until the original documents are verified during verification process.

For admission to medical/dental courses and ISM and Homoeopathy (except Naturopathy and Yoga) courses, UGNEET-2024 ranking will be considered. After the publication of the UGNEET results and taking into consideration the Medical Counselling Committee schedule, the combined counselling schedule for medical, dental, engineering and other professional courses will be announced. For architecture courses, NATA scores will be considered, and rank will be announced later.

KSIC is unable to keep up with soaring demand for Mysore Silk

Even the recent 11%-15% price hike of the saris has not hit demand for the pure silk saris produced by the State-owned enterprise

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

Mysore Silk saris have always been a favourite among women for their unique sheen and texture, but of late, due to extensive publicity for the GI-tagged pure silk product on social media and other factors, sales have skyrocketed, leading to a shortfall in supply.

According to data provided by Karnataka Silk Industries Corporation Limited (KSIC), between the years 2021-22 and 2022-23, sales of its fabrics increased by ₹41.08 crore.

In fact, even the recent (May 25) price hike of the saris by KSIC seems to have little to no effect on the demand.

The recent (May 25) price hike of the saris by KSIC seems to have little or no effect on the demand.
FILE PHOTO

Production and sales

Year	Fabric produced (in metres)	Fabric sales (in ₹ crore)
2020 - 21	3,32,770	125.13
2021 - 22	4,23,636	163.82
2022 - 23	5,41,824	204.90

Linked to gold, silver prices

"We increased the price by 11-15% depending on the amount of gold and silver that is used in the saris. The increasing price of these precious metals is what compelled the price rise. While the rise may reflect as just ₹1,500-₹2,000 in some saris, it is around ₹5,000 - ₹6,000 for some," said Zehera Naseem, managing director, KSIC.

"However, this has not deterred the customers from buying Mysore Silk saris as we had one of our highest business days on May 25 (the day of price hike) when there were sales worth ₹1.8 crore across all our showrooms. Even the next day, the business was around ₹85 lakh," she added.

KSIC officials added that at most stores, women queue up on Saturdays, when new stocks arrive to buy them before they fly off the shelves. "Because most saris are sold on Saturday itself, those who turn up to the stores on other days often must return empty handed. We also have people who place orders for saris weeks in advance," Ms. Naseem said.

Most in demand

LP saris, or the saris which are dyed in contrast colours, are the most in demand among the customers, officials said. KSIC's online portal also sees many orders received for this variety even from countries like United States and Australia.

"When they come to the store, customers mostly ask for the signature zari bordered Mysore Silk saris. These days, we are selling saris that we would normally sell in a week in one day," said a salesperson at KSIC's Malleshwaram store.

"Getting your choice of KSIC saris has always been difficult. Previously, if you knew a salesperson at a particular store, especially if you were a government employee, you could ask them to keep aside a particular piece for you whenever it arrives. That is not possible these days, apparently due to short supply. Saris of some colours like green or maroon seem to never be in stock," said Rajatha S., a government employee from Padmanabhanagar. Around 3.32 lakh metres of fabric was produced by KSIC in 2020-21 and it went up to 5.41 lakh metres in 2022-23. The Corporation has taken several steps to boost production further to cater to the growing demand.

"But we cannot increase our production capacity at once. But we are trying to increase the number of looms. We are also procuring Automatic Reeling Machines which will increase thread production. Our looms will also be equipped with electronic jacquards which will reduce weaving defects. We are also in the process of recruiting more manpower which is very essential," the MD said.

Printed silks

Apart from its signature pieces, KSIC has seen that the sales of printed silk saris have gone up by 15% to 20% in the last one year after new designs were introduced. Their products for men including panche (dhoti) and shalya, kurtas and shirts have also had good sales, especially during the wedding season, officials said.

Shortage of master weavers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

KSIC officials acknowledged that there was a shortage of supply, especially of georgette saris, mainly due to vacancies of master weavers.

"Some of our exclusive pieces are not available as much as earlier due to these vacancies. While we have regular weavers, finding master weavers is a difficult task. We need to train our experienced weavers to make them master weavers. However, this will take time," says Zehera Naseem, managing director, KSIC.

In KSIC's Mysuru unit which comprises of a silk weaving factory unit and the composite silk weaving unit, only 152 out of the total 159 installed looms are working due to shortage of weavers. Similarly, in the silk filature in T. Narasipura, 55 out of the 60 looms are functioning while 26 out of the 30 looms installed in the silk weaving unit in Channapatna are operating. A total of 16 looms are currently not operating, shows the data from KSIC.

BEL changes uniform after 37 years

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

City-based Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) employees have a new uniform from Saturday. It was a move towards "envisioning growth and modernisation", said the central PSU on Saturday. The new uniforms were unveiled by BEL Chairman and Managing Director Bhanu Prakash Srivastava and senior officials of the company during a business workshop held at Kasauli, Himachal Pradesh.

The new uniforms for employees of Bharat Electronics Limited.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

NIFT designs

BEL partnered with the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), Bengaluru, to redesign and modernise its uniforms for over 10,000 male and female employees across the country.

According to the PSU, this uniform revision, the first in 37 years, aims "to present to the world a modern and professional image of BEL, evolving with the times while maintaining its core values and identity."

The old BEL uniform for both men and women in fawn and brown colour has given way to new colour schemes.

The new uniform for men would be shirts, combining Pantone shades of "Surf the Web blue" and "Nimbus Cloud grey" and trousers in "Mood Indigo" shade. Women employees have been given options, including trousers with tops, sarees and blouses, and salwars, all in a combination of "Mood Indigo" and "Mirage Grey", along with four other Pantone shades.

The uniforms may also have the customised tree of life and peacock motifs with circuits to showcase BEL's presence in the electronic industry.

Railways, police differ on cause of loco engine derailment incident

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The city railway police have intensified the investigation into a loco engine derailment which, according to the complaint, occurred due to a ballast placed on the track between Nayandahalli and city railway station last Saturday.

Based on the complaint filed by James Mathew, senior section engineer, the police registered an FIR against unknown persons charging them under section 150 (1) A (Maliciously wrecking or attempting to wreck a train).

The front axel of the loco train (40455 KJM) heading to city railway station from Nayandahalli derailed around 6.30 p.m. The railway officials, based on a report from Kengeri station, rushed to the spot and conducted a joint inspection to allegedly find a ballast kept on the outer rail track which they said caused the derailment of the front axle of the loco and filed a complaint seeking detailed investigations.

However, the preliminary probe has revealed that there was no proof of any ballast found at the accident spot, sources said.

The police conducted inquiries and suspect that the derailment could be due to a technical error.

MSCL restrained from carrying out Nethravathi riverfront project work

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

The Southern Bench of the National Green Tribunal restrained Mangaluru Smart City Ltd., from continuing the Netravathi riverfront project work till its next hearing that will be held on Sunday, in its interim order on Friday, in Chennai.

A Bench comprising Judicial Member Arun Kumar Tyagi and Expert Member Satyagopal Korlapati passed the interim order on an application filed by National Environment Care Federation, Mangaluru, and another suo motu case taken up by the NGT Principal Bench based on media reports. MSCL is restrained from carrying out activities in the Coastal Regulation Zone of the Netravathi Riverfront, the Bench said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client intends to purchase the immovable Property for valuable consideration from its original owner **Smt. Sathya J**, that if any person has any right title or right to claim over the schedule property they may come forward with the original documents and provide the manner of right, title in writing with the under sign, within **15 days** from today, on failure of any such objection/claim being received our client shall proceed with intended sale transaction and shall be deemed that no one has any right to claim over the schedule property right that may exist is waived off.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the Residential-Property bearing **Site No. 31 & 32,** Assessment / Khatha No. 31/1 & 32/1 formed in Sy. No. 216 situated at **Kengeri Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk,** presently comes under the Jurisdiction of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Bangalore, measuring East to West: 30-0 Feet and North to South: 40-0 Feet, In all measuring: **1200 Square Feet. Bandemutt Layout, Kengeri Upanagar, Bangalore,** together with 30 Squares of building constructed thereon, consists of Ground, First and Second Floors with all civic amenities.

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The General Public are hereby notified that my clients propose to purchase the Schedule Property from the owners **Mr.A.G.Manjunathan, Mr.G.Loganathan, Mr.Ramanathan.G.**, sons of Late.Ganesh @ A.Ganeshan and Late.G.Devi, Residents of :No.5, [Old No.4], "C" Main Road, 4th Cross, Muneshwara Block, Palace Guttahalli, BANGALORE – 560 003.

Any person or persons having any claims over the Schedule Property or objections for the proposed sale transaction may lodge their claims/objections with attested copies of documents so as to reach the undersigned within **7 (seven) days** from the date of publication of this notice, failing which thereafter my clients shall proceed to complete the sale transaction and any claims/objections received beyond the stipulated period will not be entertained by my clients.

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All that piece and parcel of the **residential immovable property bearing Corporation No.4, PID No.6-77-4,** situated at 'C' Main Road, Muneshwara Block, Bangalore in Ward No.77 of Dathatreya Temple Sub-Division, [Old Ward No.6], presently within the revenue administrative jurisdiction of the Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, together with the building thereon of Ground, First, Second, Third and Fourth Floor with water, Electricity and sanitary connections, including all rights and privileges thereto and the property measuring :

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NATIONAL HIGHWAYS AUTHORITY OF INDIA
Ministry of Road Transport & Highways

Corrigendum for Public Notice on User Fee (Toll) rates at Bagepalli Toll Plaza dated 27.03.2024

The public are hereby informed that public Notification dated 27.03.2024 has issued revision of User fee (Toll) rates at Bagepalli Toll Plaza applicable from 01.04.2024 for use of Four/Six laning from Km. 462.164 to Km. 533.619 of A/P Karnataka Border to Devanahalli section of NH-44 (Old NH-7) in the State of Karnataka.

The public are hereby informed that revised User Fee Toll Rates at Bagepalli Toll Plaza applicable w.e.f 03.06.2024 (00:00 hrs).

Note: The revised User Fee Toll rates, terms and condition unchanged as mentioned in Public Notice dated 27.03.2024.

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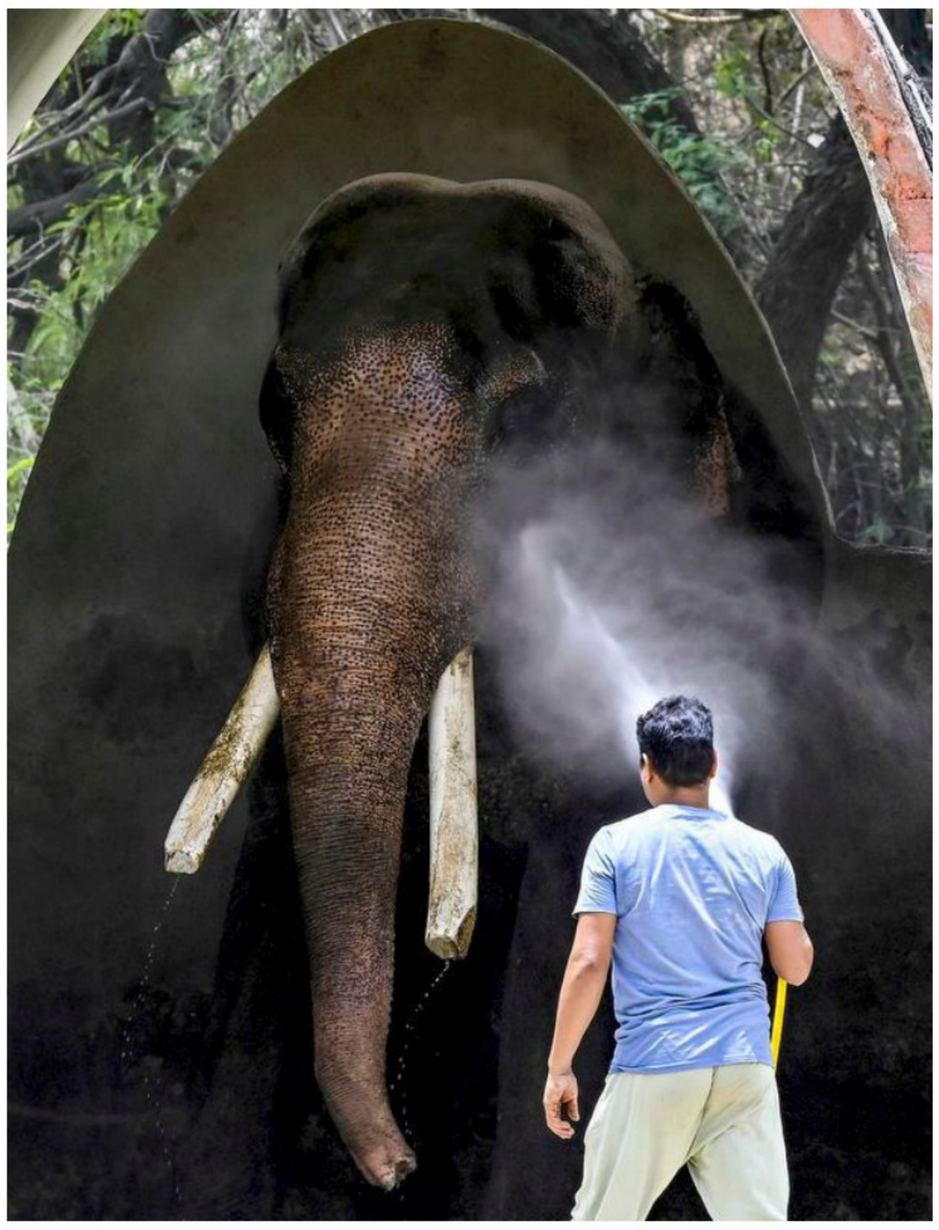

Royal treatment: A caretaker sprays water on an elephant at the National Zoological Park in New Delhi. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Staying afloat: A Nile hippopotamus partially submerged in a pond at the Arignar Anna Zoological Park, in Chennai. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Quick dip: A bat flies along the surface of a lake in Bhopal for a sprinkling of moisture. A. M. FARUQUI

Refreshing bath: An Indian rock python cools off at the Arignar Anna Zoological Park, in Chennai. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

Makeshift shower: Chimpanzees under a water sprinkler that has been set up for them at the Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Chennai, to cope with rising temperature. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

CMYK

S BG-BGE

Downpour causes inconvenience to commuters and residents

Heavy rain results in flooding of the Panathur railway bridge and significant traffic delays

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Rain lashed Bengaluru after a brief hiatus inconveniencing commuters who had to wade through flooded roads.

According to the data shared by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), nine trees and 32 branches fell till 7 p.m.

The BBMP managed to clear four trees and 18 branches. As the rain continued, the BBMP kept 63 teams on standby to respond to possible flooding.

A flooded street in Kempapura on Saturday.

BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath inspecting the rain damage at Yelahanka in Bengaluru. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

13.4 mm of rainfall

According to the IMD, until 8.30 p.m., Bengaluru city received 13.4 mm, HAL 41.9 mm, and KIAL received trace rainfall.

Due to heavy rain, the Panathur railway bridge was flooded resulting in significant traffic delays. The traffic department advised people to use alternative routes to reach homes.

While several roads were inundated at Sarjapur and northern parts of Bengaluru, such as Kempapura, water entered a house near Yelachenahalli.

BBMP Chief Commissioner, Tushar Giri Nath said that at Yelachenahalli, the drain was blocked due to Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) work and this resulted in an overflow of rainwater on the road.

The civic body swung into action to pump out the water and BWSSB vacated its materials and earthmover from the site.

Balakrishna Venkatesh, a businessman from Ranka Colony said Ranka Colony 6th main road was inundated.

A team from the BBMP arrived quickly and drained the water out. He urged the civic body to stop unfinished works since it was a major cause for flooding.

The Bengaluru Traffic Police, who were giving constant alerts on social media, listed Kempapura, Hebbal, Gorguntepalya, Tumakuru Road, Queen's Road, Marathahalli, Hoodi Junction, Electronics City and Panathur Railway Bridge among others as those where traffic congestion was being caused due to the heavy rain.

Photo studio employee murdered by friends

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 33-year-old employee of a photo studio was stabbed to death allegedly by his friends to rob his salary and mobile phone on a moving train near Mandya on April 16.

The victim, Shivaraju, a native of Panakanahalli on the outskirts of Mandya. has been working at a photo studio on K.R. road for the last 10 years and used to commute to work on train every day. His friends who reportedly travelled with him allegedly stabbed him to death and escaped with the cash, his mobile phone and a pair of ear studs weighing 3 grams.

The Mandya railway police had taken up a case.

It was later transferred to city railway police on Monday.

INBRIEF

New Chairman-cum-MD of KIOCL Limited

G.V. Kiran, on Saturday, assumed charge as the Chairman-cum-Managing Director of KIOCL Ltd. Mr. Kiran, who joined KIOCL Limited in 2019 as General Manager (Projects and Technical Services), subsequently assumed the role of Director (Production and Projects). He has over 34 years experience in the steel sector, KIOCL Limited in a release said.

Training session conducted at Ramaiah College of Law

Ramaiah College of Law, through the Justice E.S. Venkataramiah Global Legal Skills Academy, conducted a training session on May 30 on the three new criminal legislations, which will come into force on July 1. The training was provided to over 550 officers of different ranks and cadres, from Deputy Commissioners of Police to constables, of both Law and Order (North and Central Divisions) and Traffic (North Division).

Speaking at the event, B.S. Ramprasad, Chief Executive of the GEF Institutions, hailed the initiative that such events played in truly ushering in the spirit of post-colonialism. Prof. Umamahesh Satyanarayana, Principal of Ramaiah College of Law, thanked the officers among the police for their willingness learn.

BBMP halts payment under Amrutha Nagarothana Yojana

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike has frozen the payment for the works completed under the Amrutha Nagarothana Yojana (ANY) despite the State government transferring ₹500 crore to the civic body in March 2024.

This has now angered the contractors who have been waiting to receive the payment, and they say they are under financial stress. The contractors alleged that the holding of the payment raises suspicion about the intent of the BBMP, which may again lead to harassment and corruption. However, the BBMP claims that the payment was held as the model code of conduct is in place, and payments will be made after the completion of the election process.

Another contractor alleged that the payment was stopped in order to continue the 'commission practice in the BBMP'

BBMP Contractors Association President K.T. Manjunath alleged that payment was frozen abruptly, and this was done at the direction of Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar. We strongly suspect that the contractors will be subjected to harassment during the payment." Mr. Manjunath said the election reason the BBMP is citing for non-payment is false because other payments are happening.

Another contractor, on the condition of anonymity, alleged that the payment was stopped in order to continue the 'commission practice in the BBMP.' He said the introduction of the Technical Vigilance Cell under Commissioner (TVCC) inspection recently has added another layer to the alleged corruption.

BBMP Special Commissioner (Finance), Shivananda H. Kalakeri, refuting the allegations, said the payment was halted as the model code of conduct is in place. "During the election process, usually payments are not made and soon after the elections, payments will resume," he added.

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(Sd/-) DIRECTOR

Police arrest two drug peddlers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The J.J. Nagar police on Saturday arrested two drug peddlers and recovered 21 grams of MDMA worth ₹45,000 from them.

The accused Mohammed Adil, 25 and his associates Mudassir Pasha, 21 were caught red-handed while the duo was allegedly waiting to deliver the drugs to their customers near Nagarakallu temple in S.V. Garden.

The accused allegedly told the police that they had sourced the drugs from peddlers from Nigeria and the entire business was over WhatsApp.

The accused said they would contact the peddlers and place an order for drugs after paying the money online.

After confirmation of payment, they would get a message on WhatsApp with a photograph and the location of the drugs.

Usually, it was at an isolated place on the outskirts of the city.

Using the similar modus operandi, the duo had received the consignment on the outskirts of the city, the police said.

The police are now trying to track down the source of the drugs through the call record logs.

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THE HINDU

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RISE	02:11	SET 14:45
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RISE	02:54	SET 15:42
TUESDAY, JUN. 04		
RISE	05:53	SET 18:44
RISE	03:39	SET 16:41

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	34	26
Mysuru	33	25
Bengaluru	34	25

Bengaluru Today
31°C Morning will be pleasant Day will be slight warm and humid. Moderate to heavy rain and thundershower will occur. Night also will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
30°C The weather will be slight warm and humid Spell of light to moderate rain and thundershower with gusty winds to occur.

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THE HINDU
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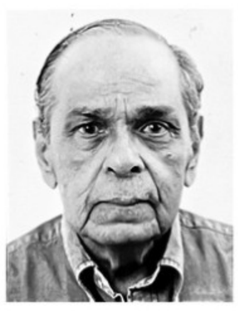
Woman loses over ₹11 lakh to online fraudsters

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

A 43-year-old woman from Brahmavara lost over ₹11 lakh to online fraudsters who threatened her in the guise of Mumbai police saying several cases of harassment were registered against her. The complainant told the Brahmavara police that she received a call on her mobile on May 28 wherein the caller told her that as many as 17 cases were registered against her regarding illegal advertisements and harassment.

Believing the caller to be an official of the 'Mumbai Cybercrime wing', the victim gathered money from various sources amounting to ₹11,04,263 till May 30 and transferred the same online to the accused.



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Shri R Parameswar, known for his distinguished career during and after government service and his profound love for Carnatic music, passed away on May 30th, 2024.

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Fondly remembered by his beloved wife, Sarasa, Ramesh and Swati, Harish and Uma, grandchildren Anoushka and Jeh, and caregivers Aradhna, Sheila, Sonia, Guddu and Prem Singh.

rparameswarin@yahoo.com

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Highly Educated father from upper class South Indian Brahmin Family ex banker and now head of a well known Organisation invites proposal for their only daughter 29, very fair and Attractive, Educated in London and the US interested in arts. Seeking good looking highly Educated, Loyal, Affectionate Hindu Boy (Not necessarily Brahmin) over 30 engaged in successful career or business. Please reply with horoscope, or date of birth and time and a photograph to Email Id: dr.vedaprasadmd@gmail.com

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GOVT DOCTOR M.D 37 Yrs, RC Never Married Fair, Seeks RC / CSI Christian Groom Doctor, Engineer Contact: 9600573068, 9940529886

VELLALAR (CNB) Fair 30 MBBS seeks Doctor Groom. 8056325579

DKV 27 M.B.B.S Aswine Mesham Father Mother Doctor. Seeks Doctor Groom Only. Ph : 94431 51045.

VANIYA CHETTIAR, Poorattahi 28/165, Fair, MBBS, Govt. Doctor, Pondicherry, seeks Doctor Groom, All Chettiar ok. Contact: 9442066913

PILLAI / Sozhiya Vellalar 28 / 172 MBBS, MD seeks DOCTOR groom.Ct: 7845235212 / 9941924982

HINDU REDDY 33Y, 165cms Doctor MBBS, MS. Suitable Never Married Groom From Chennai CNB Call: 89256 40111

VELLALAR: CASTE No Bar, Girl, Fair, 26, MBBS (DGO). Seeks Doctor, Any Suitable Grade, Chennai Or Any Place. Contact : 93635 70731

Intercaste Doctor Parents seeks alliance for their only daughter MBBS, MD, very fair, good looking, affluent age 39yrs/162cm, Divorcee, Associate Professor, Private Medical College. Caste No Bar, only doctor groom preferred. Contact : 9443167551

✔**CSI Christian** nadar girl, 29/152/ MS Doctor working in CMC Vellore, seeks alliance from PG Doctors. Cont: 9790794189.

ENGINEER

Hindu Maruthuvar born May 95 Software Engineer seeks suitable Groom inland/abroad. Contact 9025690557.

IAS / ALLIED SERVICES

LOOKING FOR my daughter, 31, (5ft 4inch), Dy.Comm IRS, (SC). Same cadre or MD/ MS/ SS (Same / caste no bar). Contact no. 9042261465

MALAYALAM

HINDU EZHAVA Girl Gynecologist Working at Kannur Medical College 22.7.95 Uthiradam Upper Middle Class Seeks Same Profession Groom 8014205710

MUSLIM GIRL (33,159cm), M.Tech, Sr. Data Engineer (Techno Park, Tvm), D/o retd Govt officials with liberal values. Divorcee, no liabilities. 9656163623, 9446451249.

NRI

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CSI NADAR 25,MBA,VIP, Need:IAS,IPS, IFS, Group1, MBBS,business group, ME,MArch,RC Hindu Nadar Ok 9445286222

MUSLIM SLIM girl BE(CSC), 37 seeks qualified, employed, Never married Tamil Muslim Groom. 9444235779

TAMIL CHRISTIAN BE 35/164Cm Handsome BC Girl Working CTS (SWE) in USA H1B Visa Seeks Goodlooking Groom Working with SWE/Professional in USA. CNB. Brokers Excuse. CT:8148825673

DOCTOR, PG Pulmonary medicine final year, RC Nadar. Fair, 164 Cms, 50 KG, settled in Chennai. Looking for alliance from Doctor or other well placed groom. Contact 9444366088/ 9444581118

LOOKING FOR Christian Bridegroom for the girl working in USA start-up aged 25. End time message. 8939250457

TAMIL CSI Protestant Vellala Wheatish 27/162cm/ 60kg/ Engg. from Chennai,seeks Christian Doctor/ Engg/ CA/ biz, Dubai/ US/UK. Ct: 9840784555

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TAMIL MUSLIM, Asst. Professor in Chennai, 40/5'4"/ slim, good looking, religious, khula taken, no kids. seeks well employed Tamil Muslim Groom has no kids preferable below 45 from Chennai. Contact: 7401655507.

AD 28/152 Asst Engineer, State Govt. Poosam. Permanent posting Chennai. Native Thanjavur. Blw 33yrs. Ph9443151444

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BRIDEGROOM WANTED For 27 Tamil / MS (CSE) , USA Software Engr , Seattle , WA.Similar profile wanted. Parents Inter Hindu & RCC. Email : goodrich3210@gmail.com

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VANNIYA KULA KSHATRIYA Bride, 22 Years Old, M.Com, Seeks Groom from same caste upper middle class. mail id: mangalam.leelavathy@gmail.com

PILLAI / SOZHIYA Vellalar 29/ 162cm,B.Tech (NIT) (UPSC ASPIRANT) (GROUP–II Services TN on the anvil) Working as IT Presales, Seeks suitable Bridegroom, Ct:9443543456 /9442712849

48/163 MUDALIAR/PILLAI M.com MBA Seeks professionally Qualifd Unmarried Below 50 Clean habits CNB 9444837355/9500113136/ anbumatri@gmail.com

HINDU SC AD, Poorattathi/ Meenam, Age 35, M.C.A Working in a MNC company, seeking Educated Groom from a good family background, below 38 Years from any Tamil Speaking Community. Contact: 9840107770, 9952930893.

FAIR MUDALIAR 28/170cm BE MS seeks Well Settled Boy Decent Family Ct : 7904735344

HINDU, VANNIYAR, 24, B.Pharm, Own Medical Shop, Seeks Doctor Groom Priority. Ph: 9444399715

VANIYAKULA KSHATRIYA / Kettai, Viruchigam / 28 / 5'3 / MS / (Ph.D) / Fair / Working in private sector at New York/ 120000 USD. Educated Bride's Parents seek well qualified US settled groom with a good family background. Hindu same caste, Mudaliyar,Pillai,Yadava, Mukkulathoor,Chettiar and other equivalent Preferably. Whatsapp: 99403 72423/ +9194447 20315

TAMIL

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36 PILLAI B.Com MBA Anusham Divorcee issueless seeks suitable groom 9094020665

MUDALIAR BE MBA Network Engineer GOTN 24 yrs 158 cm Swathi Thulam only daughter of Joint Director GOTN own house Chennai seeks Engineer/ Doctor groom from well–settled family 9444113605 drebhaskaran19@gmail.com

DOCTOR MD (Pathology), DCH, 39yrs, Hindu BC, Divorcee without child, placed in private medical college seeks well settled, compatible & affectionate Groom. CNB. Ct: 9176289180

HINDU NADAR 32, 160, B.Tech, Working in IT Star Revathy seeks IT Groom below 35.Ct: 9944410712/ 9514952555

MUDALIAR 26, BE, MBA, 162cm,Good looking wellsettled family seeks alliance CNB, Ct.8778514465/ 7200866346

HINDU SC MBBS Doctor Age 28 Uthiram–I/Simmam seeks suitable well employed Groom within Chennai 9500182723

KONGU VELLALA Gounder, 25yrs, MBA, Elite Business family. Seeks Suitable Groom Ct: 9710093999/ 9710091999

HINDU NADAR 26/163cm B.Tech, MBA (IIM), Rs.150000 per month,Seeks Suitable Groom.KA Ramannadar 9380791999

SC AD Hindu Bride Age 24, BE,MBA Thiruvonam/Magaram Working in Nationalized Bank, Seeking from the same Community Preferably Chennai Groom, Bank/ Govt Job from well Educated Family, below 29 yrs. Ct: 9443643415

HINDU, ILLATHU Pillai. Alliance invited from a Tamil Nadu based well–settled decent cultured family for our Daughter, Age 24 years, Height 5ft 5inch, fair Complexioned, B.E, MBA Graduate. Contact: 9361741023

SAIVAMUDALIAR 31 Bcom Thiruvonam Chennai Seeks Professionals Veg only in Chennai / Geetham 9884858014

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PILLAI / MUDALIAR 36 fair Hastham MCA well settled in Chennai Seeks Profly Quafd Working Groom 8220757159

HINDU NADAR, 28yrs, B.Tech, MBA, Elite Industrialist. Seeks Suitable Groom Contact:9710093999/ 9710091999

SC AD 26/B.Tech.,MBA.,Software Engr.[MNC]1,25,000 p.m.Seeks Bride Groom.Ph.9444993417/Whatsapp:7397674481

MUDALIAR (CNB): 25/V.Fair, BE, MS (USA), Associate Developer, MNC, Newyork (USA), Well settled Family, Seeks Groom– Abroad/India–8925019776

MUDALIAR: 26/ V.Fair, MBBS, MS doing, Chennai, Father Business, Elite Family, Seeks Groom Doctor / Business – 9962530015

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GROOM WANTED
Hindu ,Chettiar,30 yrs/ 175 cms, Fair ,Good looking, MBA from premier institute, presently senior management consultant at MBB in the US. From a well established Family in Chennai. Looking for an equally qualified groom with clean habits, from a well educated family. Caste no bar.
Please contact via WhatsApp
91768 56965

GROOM WANTED
HINDU, PILLAI 23, 170 cms; MBA
Lives in Coimbatore. Father is a working professional. Family is financially well off. Looking for like minded match from Coimbatore only.
9842271709

TAMIL

YADAVA 25/160cms Counselling Psychologist, Fair, Beautiful, Affluent, well Educated Family. Seeks well qualified, Handsome Groom from similar Family background, decent salary, preferably employed in Chennai, Age: 26-30yrs.CNB. CT: 7200061922

Bharadwaj, Vadama, Thiruvathirai Girl 29/165 H1B /UX designer in CA-USA, seeks US based Brahmin groom under 34.
Ct: 99728 67016 / 98863 66855

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Tamil Hindu Kallar affluent girl - Architect, 1996 born, working in Bangalore seeks a boy from similar Profession or Business settled in a Cosmopolitan city. Caste no bar.
CONTACT
94432 68128

BRIDES WANTED

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DM– DOCTOR (Dec 91, Tamil, 185 cm, v.fair & h'some, clean habits, Hastham) needs a virtuous, tall, quite fair, pleasant PG Doctor / highly qualified bride, age 27–30 years, from educated Kongu Vellala, Kamma, Pillai, Mudaliyar, Nair, Gowda, Kapu or similar backgrounds. Prefers to settle in Coimbatore, Chennai, Bangalore, Kochi. Parents: 9342529547 / 9072118800.

LOOKING FOR bride Bangalore based 32Yrs, Education graduate Working in Central Govt. SC community. Any caste bride, looking beautiful well settled,family Graduate Ctc: 9113511457

INTERCASTE PARENTS, seeking bride from elite families. Groom 33 years, fair & handsome.Working in Malaysia. 98497 98234

CANADA PHD Divorced, Caste no bar.seeking Hindu/Christian bride below 38yrs. +919894988302, +918122090357

DOCTOR

HINDU NADAR, 28/165cm, MBBS, MD, 1 Lakh per month, Seeks Suitable Bride Contact: 9380791999

HINDI

1985/175CM, 50 Lakhs PA, Never Married, Bangalore. WhatsApp: 96290 12248

IAS / ALLIED SERVICES

6 FEET 1 inch, 30 yrs, B.Tech (IIT Kanpur), Group A (Class I) Gazetted Officer in Central Govt, Mumbai. Caste/Language no Bar. Contact: +91 9004898881

MALAYALAM

VISHWAKARMA (CARPENTER– Malayalam) , 34/ 5ft 1inch, Punartham, Private Company Job in Coimbatore, needs suitable bride from same community Contact 9442267579

HINDU SAIVA Vellala boy, 27 yrs, middle class, Developer in MNC, Triketta, seeks educated job seeking girls, contact: 7012942358 kala.devi.deivanayagam@gmail.com

NAIR BOY, 32/ 180, Pooram Suddha Jathakam, MBA engaged as Deputy Manager in Family Business in Chennai Invited Proposals Nair Girls with Suddha Jathakam Ct: 9841428004/ 94446 25522.

TAMIL

BE Bits Pilani 6'1 Mudaliar 32yrs Sr Product Mgr Corporate Bengalore 43 Lac PA, Bride 5 '4 Same or Allied Castes Tamil,Telugu. Ct: 7382620365

SENGUNTHA MUDALIYAR 36/167/BE 1Lak TCS, Thiruvatherai/Mithunam Sevai, Seek Bride from Mudaliyar. 9940241415

RICH MUDALIYAR, 31yrs, ME, MBA, Well Educated Family. Seeks Suitable Bride Contact: 9962791888/ 7094991999

B.E 29/180 cm, software, 32 L/ PA, parents intercaste Pillai/ Brahmin. Seeking educated, Hindu, good looking, employed girl, CNB. Contact: 9487783881

SOUTH INDIAN Vegetarian MBBS Doctor serving in IAF, Oct 1997 born 169 cms Mougalya Gothram, Rohini Star, Rishaba Rasi seeks Vegetarian Doctor Girl. 9442063443, 9003942248

HINDU SC AD 32 Yrs 161cm B.Tech, IT Company,Fair, Own House, Well Settled, Caste No Bar, Seeks Qualified& Good Natured Bride. Ct: 8680095094

PILLAI 38/186 B E (EEE) @ COGNIZANT Chennai as IT professional, Seeks suitable Bride Veg Only. 9042755506

PILLAI(KARUNEEGAR), DOB:24–01–92, BE, Veg, Job: MNC (Software) Chennai, Annual Income: 25 lakhs. Seeking a suitable bride from the same or any other community. Ph: 9841784047 Email: pingme.arul@gmail.com.

HINDU Adi Dravida 25/176 Fair BA., L.L.B Advocate in Chennai seeks bride Email: betterhalfbride@gmail.com

ELITE MUDALIAR parents (senior level Govt. Officers) seek alliance from educated and affluent family for their only son, Doctor, 30, 175 cm having his own clinic at Chennai, Send details Directly To Parents Mail: msmm592@rediffmail.com

HINDU, 32yrs/170cm BE., Ayillam-Katagam/ SC/ Affluent Family, well Educated and settled in Bangalore. Seeking suitable Bride from same/ other caste. Contact No: 98454 01461

CASTE/AGE NO Bar Yadav(BC) BE,MBA UnMarried earns 40 LPA, Age 39. Against Dowry, no bad habits 8825918646

VANNIYAR 37/168 BE, 1.45L, Visagam4th, Working in TATA Group of Company seeks Suitable Bride same CasteCt:9944330445/mpragathees@gmail.com

DKV 43 DGM - Central Govt. Divorce - Child with Mother. Seeks Unemployed Girl. Caste No Bar. 94426 07143, 99945 67839.

HINDU NADAR, 27/170, BE, MBA (BITS Pilani), Rs.3,00000/– per month, Seeks Suitable Bride. Ct: 9380791999

VANNIYAR 42 BE CHN IT 1st Marriage, Looking for bride from a decent, educated family. CNB. 9840196320

MUDALIAR, DIVORCEE, PhD, Professor, Pvt Eng.College, age 50,Magaram, Seeks educated unmarried/widow/ Divorcee without child from FC/ OBC (40–45yrs) No expectation Ct:9150799959

AGE 46, 2nd Marriage, Working in Hospital at Qatar. Suitable Bride who willing to come Qatar. Ct: +97433840227 / 9498328263

TAMIL

SC HINDU Mithunam Thiruvathirai 30 / 180 Fair, BE, MBA IT Chennai seeks Homely, Educated, Mingle with Join & Well settled Family. Caste No Bar. vela4293@gmail.com / 8778546961

HINDU YADAVA, 31/180cm, Aswini, M.Tech., Freelance Photographer at Chennai, 10L/p.a seeks good family background Bride. Ct: 94882 60102

B.E, 37YRS 5.8 Pillai (Sozhiya Vellalar) Employed & Upper Middle Class Family Seeks Suitable Bride, Star: Swathi (Caste No Bar) 9843252888

HINDU SC–ADI DRAVIDA,32,Male, B.E.,MS, Working in NHS–London. Ph. 9444656046

INTERCASTE PARENTS. Hindu. Groom 30, 6' 3". Working for MNC seeks suitable bride. Caste no bar. Contact 9444086145.

HINDU NAIDU 27/5'11" BE, MBA (IIM) , 37L PA (MNC) with good Networth & well educated family seeks bride with similar background CNB. whatsapp: 9840857315/ ravisrivg65@gmail.com

CHENNAI, KIND Fair Innoct Divorcee, 41yrs. Cent Govt Sports. 2L/Mth. Dr Family Need Edu Girl: 9884171419

YADAVA, 41 First Marriage,Pvt Ltd Chennai, National Head 18Lac PA Seeks Bride CNB/Divorcee ok :8610014920

LOOKING alliance for our son Siva-Ganesh, 32Yrs, 6feet, residing permanently and working as software engineer in United kingdom. Contact 9841294930

IYER MAGAM 40 B.Com 360000 PA Seeks any Veg. Girl Contact : 80127 58006

BRIDE WANTED
Doctor, M.Ch., 35 yrs, 168 cm, Working in a reputed Pvt. Hospital in Chennai. Uthiram, Clean habits, Divorced, affluent family, Sengunthа Mudaliar (CNB) seeking alliance from cultured, educated and god fearing unmarried or divorced girls of below 32 years with decent family background.
Ct: 94444 59841 / 95515 28622

BRIDE WANTED
BE MS (CS), 28/180 Smart, Good looking from a well-settled HINDU THEVAR family. A Product Architect – IT/Successful Entrepreneur & Founder of leading FinTech Based in Chennai earning 70 Lacs+/Yr. Seeking a kind, supportive bride (27 or younger) who values family and comes from a good family background.
Ph: +91 7845821205

Nellai Saiva Pillai 29/175/1994/ 18LF MNBank in Chennai, seeks beautiful IT Girl same / sub caste Contact: 9445868954.

Hindu Vysya Chettiyar 58yrs Self Employed Rs.6 L.P.A, Pure Veg. Seeks Bride. Caste No Bar. Ct: 94990 14886.

HINDU Mudhaliar 27/165cm BE., MS, working in Bosch, Czceh Republic well Educated & Affluent family seeks only Hindu Graduate Bride Ct:9884077047/ nagalakshmiashokkumar@gmail.com

Saiva Pillai 28/180, M Tech Research Scientist, Ahmedabad seeks Educated Employed Bride Contact: 9442649298

Seeking Proposals for our Son - Doctor - Urology Surgeon, 31, Very fair, Hindu, Gavara Naidu; Caste No bar. Contact us at 9884012558

TAMIL

Naidu, 28, M.E.Chennai, Own Construction Company, well Educated affluent family, Subset, caste no bar, Phone: 9841097110

Father-Mudaliyar, Mother-Pillai , 29/167 cm , Doctor MD, Moolam 3 Padam, seeks suitable Bride Graduate/PG in any discipline Contact 9901441862

TELUGU

Akkini Krutartha, BBA, Aged 31 years. Father Akkini Ramu, retired Director General of Police, Orissa. Seeks Good looking and Educated Christian or converted Hindu Christian Girl. Contact: 9849695867.

AGE 37 Handsome, Well Settled Groom seeks VIP Family Bride & 1st Marriage, Remarriage, Divorce 9597834451

BALIJA 29/180 BE/ M.S (Ger) working in Germany 51Lpa. Seeks Suitable Bride.Ct: 9442623203 / 9442838203

NAIDU, KANNI/ Hastham 07.01.1991/B.Tech, IT,Software Engr. seeks Educated Girl Ct: 9361783287/ 9150851950

KAMMA NAIDU, BCom,ACA,ACS,31/ 180Cm, Fair,Star Thiruvathirai, Rasi Mudhunam, well to do family, partner in a mid size firm of Chartered Accountants along with his father at Chennai. Seeks Bride from Kamma Naidu family. Ct. 9840786456

NAIDU 29/180 Handsome,MBBS,MD,MS, MMC Hospital, 2400000.PA,Well Settled Family, CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

Balija 27/178 BE/MBA Working in Chennai Seeks Bride Contact: 9500145075/8754580155

URDU

27 YRS / Ht.5.10, Affluent, Well Settled Business Family & Landlords Seeks Well Settled, Affluent, Well to do Family, Bride for their Son. Mail: syedabs@yahoo.in Ct.7845512232

BRIDE WANTED
Urdu Muslim, Affluent, Well settled hotelier family in Chennai Seeks affluent, well-to-do, self employed / entrepreneur bride for their son 35 years / 180 cm
CONTACT
hotelmars@yahoo.com 9884079899

BRIDES & GROOMS WANTED

TAMIL

HINDU GIRL, BE, 32, 5.3.– Working Boy, B.Sc, MBA, 36, 5.5. Both I or II Marriage ok. Ct: 9444132753

MARRIAGE BUREAU

US UK Canada All Caste Religion 1st Marriage Remarriage. Ct:8248757840

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BRAHMIN IYER, 28, 180 cms, MBA, AVP. Lives in Mumbai. Father is a Sr Management professional. Family is financially well off. Looking for a suitable match. Contact: 6366448344

VANNIA KULA KSHATRIYAR, 31, 182 cms, MBA. Operation Management. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Working Professional. Family is financially well off. Looking for a compatible vegetarian match. Contact: 6366448344

PILLAI, 34, 180 cms, BE. Lives in Singapore. Father is a Working Professional. Family is financially well off and lives in Trichy. Looking for an amiable match. Contact: 6366448343

NAIDU, 29, 180 cms, Working Professional, M.E. Lives in USA. Parents are working professionals. Family is financially well off. Looking for a suitable match. Contact: 6366448343

ELITE GROOMS WANTED

BRAHMIN IYERGAR, 28, 159 cms, MBBS, MS. Lives in Tirupati. Father are Working Professional. Famiy is financially well off. Looking for an amiable match. Contact: 6366448343

NAI BRAHMIN/ CASTE NO BAR, 29, 158 cms, MD, Doctor. Lives in Vellore. Father is a Government Professional. Family is affluent. Looking for a like minded Doctor match. Contact: 6366448344

DEVANDRA KULA VELLALAR/ CASTE NO BAR, 28, 160 cms, MD, Doctor. Lives in Thiruvarur. Parents are Doctors. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded Doctor match. Contact: 6366448344

CHRISTIAN NADAR, 23, 179 cms, MBA. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for an affable match from Christian Nadar. Contact: 6366448343

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TAMIL

Tamil Muslim, Fair, Gd Looking, 26/ 160, B.N.Y.S, doing M.D, Seeks Doctor Engineer Professionals Preferably from Tirunelveli & Chennai. Contact: 7867044233, talk2nilar@gmail.com

HINDU, 37/5.2', Pooratadhi, Kumbam, M.A, M.Phil., Govt.Job, First marriage seeks suitable well employed Groom within TamilNadu. CNB. 8838352394

HINDU NADAR, 29yrs/160cm Moolam Dhanush, B.Tech (CS) working CISCO Bangalore Rs.19Lacs PA seeks Groom with similar Educational & Professional Background Contact: 91768 00819

RC SOZIAVELLALA legally separated no issues 40yrs well Qualified working in Pharma Industry seeks Educated well settled Groom Religion, Language No Bar. Contact: 98402 48112

DKV/PALLAN 27yrs B.E, working Indl. Automation SW. Company, Chennai. Well settled Family, Father Sr.Engr Rly (R). Mother DGM-ONGC seeks Groom clean habits, same caste, Govt. Emp /PSU/Pvt. 81489 49077/ 94450 05474.

TELUGU

BALIJA NAIDU, 28/152cm, Fair, PG, MNC Chennai Ct: 6380984534/saanvigklr@gmail.com

BALIJA NAIDU, Thiruvathurai/ Midhunam/ 27/165/MS / Canda PR/ Well Settled seeks Well qualified & Well settled groom from Canada. Caste No bar, Ct– 9840224474

GROOM WANTED Rich Kamma Naidu 27yrs, B.Tech,Own Constructions, Resorts & Finance,Elite business family in Chennai Ct: 9710093999/ 9710091999

RICH KAMMA Naidu, 29yrs, B. Tech,Well Educated family. Seeks Suitable Groom. Ct: 9710093999/ 9710091999

HINDU TELUGU Naidu Born Aug 1990/ 165cm Ph.D Scholar smart medium complexion from a Reputed family seeks well educated and settled groom in India born after 1987. Ct:9790908109

DOCTOR

DOCTOR, PG, 34 years, 165cm, Catholic, legally divorced, settled in Kollam Dst, Kerala, Asst Prof in a private medical college. Seeks alliance from educated and employed Christian brides. Mob: 8281987470

CSI CHRISTIAN Arunthathiyar,29, MD(anaesthesia) 5'10", seeks Christian Doctor Bride. 9442823837

30, SURGEON, seeks doctor bride (MBBS, MD/ MS, DM/ MCh), Kannada/ Tamil, OBC/ BC, Ph: 8618607705

BRIDE WANTED Rich Mudaliyar, 30yrs, MBBS, MS, Elite business family in Chennai.Ct: 9710093999/ 9710091999

RICH NAIDU 28yrs MBBS,MS,Own Hospitals in Chennai Elite Family Seeks Suitable Bride 9710093999/ 9710091999

ENGINEER

HINDU, NAIDU, ME(IT),27Yrs, Employed Canada, seeks engineer bride, India or Canada, WhatsApp 9840757993, e.mail: srmtrajan@gmail.com

TELUGU

AFFLUENT KAMMA 40, M.Sc Psychology, good looking seeks well settled handsome qualified groom. Subsect no bar. 9444410207/ tvm1945@gmail.com

NAIDU 27/169 Fair, Beautiful, MBBS, MS–Doing, 600000.PA, Well Settled Family, CNB. 9043991629,9043987029

52yrs Brahmin Divorcee seeks Div/ Wid/UnM should relocate to Hyderabad. Pls WhatsApp only: 9032090571

URDU

Urdu Muslim, Good looking, Fair, 22/166, M.com seeks Educated & settled Groom. Contact: 9442600462, showhath@gmail.com

AHLE HADEES parents seek religious, qualified groom for daughter 23, 158 cm, fair, BE(CSE) Mob:9944642150

NRI

NAIDU 29/180CM, Pooratathi, BTech MS, Working as Research Engr, PR of Sweden Contact Father 9566682220

VISWAKARMA 31/155 Maham Ph.D settled in USA seeks qualified bride working/studying in USA or willing to move to USA/Canada.Contact : 7200771188 (Whatsapp) with profile and phtoto.CNB

ORIYA

SAIVA PILLAI, 36, Rohini, IT,35K pm, Madurai, Own House, Caste No Bar. Ct: 8056588515

TAMIL

ROMAN CATHOLIC Christian,Chennai. Fair 38yrs, BBA& Dip. in Mech Engg. Seeks bride under 35yrs . 9600060094

RC CHRISTIAN, 41yrs/170, B.E. Software Engineer, never married, working for mnc, Chennai, CT–9500188067

BRIDE WANTED Rich Mudaliyar 32yrs MS(UK) Own Industries in Chennai (Industrialist) 9710093999/ 9710091999

CHETTIAR, 30YRS, MBA London, Landlord, Madurai seeks good looking Bride. Caste No Bar. Ct: 94437 26677, Email Id: chiyanrajaram2@gmail.com

HINDU NADAR, 30yrs / 180cm, BE MBA, 33 LPA in MNC, Chennai, Well Educated Affluent Family, Seeking Well Educated Bride From a Similar Family Background. 9841054900

MUDALIAR 54 Divorcee Ph.D Engg abroad return Shares trade 5Cr properties sk suitable bride 40–45 no issues CNB 9500367269 sbkkeck@yahoo.com

BRIDE WANTED Elite Mudaliyar 25yrs MBA Own Constructions & Finance, Business family 9710093999/ 9710091999

HINDU DEVENDIRA kula vellalar M.E., 29/168 Asst. Engg. in PWD seeks suitable bride 8667380725, 8825793743

MUDALIYAR 26/165CM, BE, M.Tech, 1 Lakh per month, Elite Family, Seeks Suitable Bride. Contact: 8939691888

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

IT IS for General information that, I Malaya Kumar Biswal,S/o Ajoya Kumar Biswal, R/o F1 Sri Keshava Residency No.53, 3rd Cross, 2nd main, Dena Bank colony, Ganganagar,Bangalore Karnataka - 560032, declare that my father name is wrongly written as Ajay Kumar Biswal in My class 10th and 12th and all other educational documents. The correct name of my Father is Ajoya Kumar Biswal which may be amended accordingly.

THE HINDU

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Over 13,000 trained for vote-counting process deployed across State

There will be a total of 29 counting centres — one in each parliamentary constituency and two in Tumakuru owing to logistical issues, says CEO for Karnataka Manoj Kumar Meena

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

A security guard in front of a strongroom at St. Cecilys High School, Brahmagiri in Udupi, where EVMs used in Udupi-Chikkamagaluru parliamentary polls have been kept. FILE PHOTO

With the conclusion of voting for the Lok Sabha polls across the country on Saturday, preparations for the counting of votes in the State have intensified. The vote counting process is set to begin on Tuesday at 8 a.m., and the first round results will start trickling in from 9 a.m. onwards.

Colour badges

Overall, a total of 13,173 counting staff have been trained for the vote-counting process and have been deployed at the centres.

Besides, an additional 20% of the designated counting staff will be on standby. To ensure accuracy and prevent errors, staff will be given different colour badges and identity cards in each Assembly constituency.

Manoj Kumar Meena, Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) for Karnataka, told *The Hindu* that there would be a total of 29 counting centres – one in each parliamentary constituency and two in Tumakuru owing to logistical issues.

"There are around 3,500 tables in all counting centres put together and each table will be manned by a counting assistant, counting supervisor, and micro observer. Besides, Assistant Returning Officers (AROs) will be stationed at separate tables," he said.

While one round of randomisation for the counting staff has been completed, another will be on Monday, a day before the counting day and a third one on the day of counting on Tuesday in the presence of micro observers. The staff will be assigned to tables only on the day of counting, he said.

Venkatesh Kumar R., Additional CEO in Karnataka, said this time the counting data would be entered after completion of counting on each table.

"This time data will be entered table-wise and not round-wise that was done during previous elections. Each table will have one CCTV camera fixed in a position that will not capture the control unit display," he said.

Postal ballot counting

Pointing out that each parliamentary constituency would have a separate postal ballot hall, Mr. Kumar said some counting centres – where the number of postal ballot voters were high – would have more than one postal ballot counting hall. Postal ballot counting would happen simultaneously with EVM votes counting.

Postal ballots are those polled by service voters, polling personnel, personnel deployed on emergency duties and essential services, apart from the elderly aged above 85 and persons with disabilities.

Counting personnel deployed for postal ballot counting have been advised on how to identify invalid ballots and count them, and two dry runs on declaration of results have been done. Besides, preparations at the counting halls have been completed with separate seating arrangements for counting staff and counting agents. While deployment of security staff at the counting centres has been done, dedicated high speed Internet lines from two service providers have been made available.

VVPAT counting

Although the counting process of EVM votes is likely to be completed by around 1 p.m., the final declaration of results will happen only after the mandatory verification of VVPAT paper slips of randomly selected five polling stations from each Assembly constituency, as mandated by the Supreme Court.

"The counting and verification of VVPAT paper slips is likely to take around three hours. This is likely to delay the final declaration of results. We are expecting the final results to be available by around 6 p.m.," said Mr. Kumar.

LS elections: Many exit polls predict single-digit seats for Congress in State

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Twenty-plus Lok Sabha seats have been predicted for the BJP-JD(S) alliance in Karnataka. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

The Congress in Karnataka, which banked on implementation of five guarantees in the Lok Sabha elections, will get single-digit seats, according to several exit polls.

The exit poll conducted by India Today-Axis My India, TV Bharatvarsh-Polstart, India TV-CNX, Jan Ki Baat, Republic TV-P MARQ, ABP News-C Voter and India News-D-Dynamics predicted 20-plus seats for the BJP-Janata Dal (S) alliance.

TV Bharatvarsh-Polstart predicted the highest number of eight seats to the Congress, while ABP News-C Voter and India Today-Axis My India gave 3 to 5 seats for the Congress.

Going by this, compared to 2019 results, the Congress would improve significantly but would fall below the expectations of party leaders and the cadre.

While KPCC president and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar predicted 20 seats for the Congress, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said the party would win a minimum 15 seats and a maximum of 20.

Congress leaders, including Rahul Gandhi, Priyank Gandhi Vadra, and AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge, had intensively campaigned for the Congress, while Prime Minister Narendra Modi and several Union Ministers crisscrossed the State during the two-phase election held in the State.

The Congress and JD (S) won just a single seat each in 2019, while the BJP emerged victorious in 25 and an Independent backed by the BJP won one seat.

Meanwhile, Congress leaders have pooh-poohed the exit polls. Mr. Shivakumar said: "Exit polls typically have low sample size and hence don't get the numbers right. I, therefore, don't have faith in exit polls... Congress will win double-digit seats in the State."

Civil society vigilance campaign to monitor counting process across the country

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Members of Eddelu Karnataka, a civil society collective, at a press conference in Bengaluru on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

To monitor and ensure impartial vote counting, Eddelu Karnataka (Wake Up Karnataka), a civil society collective, has set up a Vigilant Voters Task Force (VVTF) in all Lok Sabha constituencies across the country, including in Karnataka.

The VVTF would organise people's vigilance near counting centres with placards displaying the slogan "Let the mandate be implemented." Any cheating would be called out and protested against, members from the collective told presspersons on Saturday. The collective has also set up 'Counting Watch' helplines that would function from 7 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Tuesday.

While citizens from northern States can call 98704-19280; 79825-97191, those from Southern States (including Maharashtra and Goa) can call 97414-82975 and 63667-05015.

Tara Rao, an environmental activist who spoke on behalf of the collective, said: "We want to ensure impartial vote counting and a smooth transition from the current government to the new elected government. For this, several civil society representatives, like-minded concerned citizens, leaders of farmers, Dalit and women's organisations held two consultative meetings and proposed two interventions: a counter-narrative, and vigilance on counting day which ensures that there is no cheating, and counting takes place impartially."

Former Minister B.T. Lalitha Naik, who is also part of the collective, said work had begun to put pressure on the administration for impartial vote counting.

"An appeal letter has been sent to all the Returning Officers of the country. Besides, a letter has also been written to the President and the Chief Justice of India to make sure that the constitutional process is followed."

Prajwal case: Bhavani keeps SIT officials waiting for over seven hours at her Holenarsipur residence

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

Bhavani, wife of JD(S) leader H.D. Revanna. FILE PHOTO

Officials of the Special Investigation Team (SIT), which is probing the alleged sexual abuse cases against Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna, returned empty-handed after waiting for more than seven hours near the residence of former Minister H.D. Revanna at Holenarsipur in Hassan district for Bhavani.

The SIT had served a notice summoning Ms. Bhavani, who is the wife of the former Minister and the mother of Mr. Prajwal Revanna, in connection with her alleged role in the abduction of a survivor in the sexual abuse case.

In the notice, the SIT had told Ms. Bhavani to appear before officials for interrogation between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. on June 1 at her residence in Holenarsipur.

'Recovering'

Suma N., an advocate of Ms. Bhavani, said her client would cooperate with the investigation. However, at present she was recovering after a knee surgery and the death of her brother.

"I don't know where she is right now, but she is not feeling well. She has undergone surgery on both the knees. Moreover, recently she lost her brother. She is yet to come out of grief," the advocate said.

On Saturday morning, the officials reached the residence around 11 a.m. However, Ms. Bhavani did not turn up until 4 p.m. Three advocates entered the residence and interacted with the officials.

On May 31, a court in Bengaluru had rejected Ms. Bhavani's plea for anticipatory bail. She had sought bail in the case related to the abduction of a woman, who was allegedly sexually abused by Mr. Prajwal Revanna.

Prajwal grilled

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Special Investigation Team probing the alleged rape and sexual assault cases against 33-year-old Hassan MP, Prajwal Revanna, intensively questioned him on Saturday.

According to sources in SIT, the investigating officers asked him about the mobile phone which he allegedly used for recording the sexual acts. The mobile phone SIT seized upon his return from Germany is not the original device from where his driver Karthik Gowda airdropped the videos to his iPhone, it is learnt.

The sources said Mr. Prajwal Revanna during the questioning maintained that the phone that was seized was the only one he has been using. He was not forthcoming during the questioning and claimed he didn't know the victims who filed a complaint against him.

Two held in Valmiki corporation scam case

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) arrested two officials of Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribe Development Corporation – former managing director J.B. Padmanabha and accountant Parushurama G. – for allegedly misappropriating funds.

The two, who were on the run, were arrested on the outskirts of Bengaluru and taken into custody after producing them before the court.

The State government had already suspended them on charges of dereliction of duty, negligence and violation of financial rules.

The multi-crore scam came to light when the accounts superintendent of the corporation P. Chandrashekaran ended his life leaving behind a suicide note, mentioning unauthorised transfer of money belonging to the corporation under pressure from the two persons.

The corporation had filed a case with the High Grounds police here against six Union Bank of India officials, alleging that they fraudulently diverted around ₹94.73 crore of its funds to other bank accounts.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Saturday reiterated that no one would be protected in the case. The BJP has sought the immediate dismissal of Scheduled Tribes Welfare Minister B. Nagendra, following allegations against him in connection with the case.

Speaking to reporters, Mr. Siddaramaiah said SIT had been formed to probe the alleged multi-crore fraud in the corporation and the law would take its own course. All those involved in the scam would be punished as per the law based on the SIT report, he said.

Mr. Shivakumar said: "We will not spare those who committed the fraud. Such incidents have happened during BJP's rule too. We will conduct a thorough investigation. The investigating officers are chasing the money trail and we will get the money back. Some people have also been arrested in the case."

Asked about the demand for a CBI probe into the case, the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee president said: "Scams of certain value directly go to the CBI and there is no role of the government in this. We will fully cooperate with the investigation."

BENGALURU NORTH UNIVERSITY
Sri Devaraj Urs Extension, Tamaka,
Kolar-563 103.
Website:**www.bnu.karnataka.gov.in**
Email:**bnuregistrar@karnataka.gov.in**

Date:30.05.2024

E-Tender Notification

The Registrar, Bengaluru North University, Tamaka, Kolar invites Tender from the eligible and reputed vendors for various Services to the University as mentioned below: **(1)** Supply, Installation & Annual Maintenance of Fire SafetyEquipments at Bengaluru North University, Kolar **Tender No: BNU/2023-24/IND0014/CALL-2. (2)** Providing Catering Services for Bengaluru North University,Kolar. **Tender No: BNU/2023-24/IND0013/CALL-2.** As per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements (KTTP) Act. The Tenderers who have registered under E-Governance Department of Karnataka may participate through from the E-Procurement and download the tender documents from website **http:/kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 29.05.2024.**

Sd/- REGISTRAR
Bengaluru North University, Kolar
DIPR/Kolar/R.O.No.12/KSMCA/2024-25

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (South),
BBMP, South Zone, 9th Cross, 9th Main, Jayanagar,
2nd Blcok, Bengaluru - 560011.

No: SADH(S)/TENDER/01/2024-25 **Date: 01-06-2024**

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) - (SHORT TERM)
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)

The Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (South Zone), (Referred to as Employer in these documents) invites tenders to Implement Works in accordance with KTPP Rules 2000, from eligible and experienced Person / Agencies / Firms (Referred to as Tenderers in these documents) registered in Labour Department for Maintenance of Parks.

(Standard Tender Document - KW-1, KW-2 & KW-3)

Sl. No.	Name of the Work / Category
1	Maintenance of Horticulture Works in Vishveshwara Puram Ward Parks (Ward No.163). **(Call-3) - (Other) - Estimated Amount (in Rs.): 64,10,914.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 1,28,300.00**
2	Maintenance of Horticulture Works & Road Medians Ganesha Mandiara Ward in Ward Parks (Ward No.189). **(Call-3) - (Other) - Estimated Amount (in Rs.): 30,68,969.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 61,400.00**
3	Maintenance of Toilet in Jayanagara Assembly Constituency Parks. **(Call-3) - (Other) - Estimated Amount (in Rs.): 7,05,944.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 17,650.00**

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender documents can be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 03-06-2024. 2)** Date of Pre Bid Meeting: **06-06-2024 at 11.30 AM. 3)** Date of Tender Closing: **10-06-2024 upto 4.00 PM. 4)** Date of Opening of Technical Bid: **11-06-2024 at 4.30 PM. 5)** Date of Opening of Financial Bid: **After Approval of Technical Bid.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (South Zone), BBMP.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

K.KANNAN (88) , Retired Caretaker Assistant, The Hindu , Chennai passed away on 01-June-2024. Address: 70A/23A, 27th Street, GKM Colony, Chennai-600082.Contact: 9940422291

BIRTH CENTENARY

Birth Centenary of our Beloved Father

Shri O.A.Govindarajan, B.A, B.L, Ambattur
02.06.1924 - 13.06.1994
Forever in our Memories
Sons, Daughters in law, Daughters, Sons in law, Grand Children and Great Grand Children

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact:
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Hubballi: 0836 - 2338600
Mangaluru: 0824 - 2417575,
from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Online booking: **www.thehinduads.com**
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DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

19th DEATH ANNIVERSARY

L. PRABHAKAR REDDY
DOB: 25.12.1954 DOD: 02.06.2005
Fondly remembered by
Family Members
Ph: 9003060330

10th DEATH ANNIVERSARY

S.JAYA
Born: 01.03.1944 Died: 02.06.2014
It is Ten Years Since you left us, but you remain in our hearts forever
Fondly Remembered by
Husband, Daughters, Sons-in-Law, Grandchildren & Relatives
May your soul rest in peace and bestow happiness in our lives
A.Sivaramakrishnan
Mobile: 94449 75565

Curbs on KIIFB borrowing delay Kerala govt.'s nod for rail project

If the Centre lifts the curbs on the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board borrowing limit, the State will give an undertaking to Railways committing to shoulder 50% of the cost of the Angamaly-Erumely project, says senior bureaucrat

Dhinesh Kallungal
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala seems to have put the ambitious Angamaly-Erumely Sabari rail project on the back-burner due to financial crisis. The file seeking the approval of the government to shoulder 50% of the revised estimate of the project has been shuttling between the office of the Chief Secretary and the offices of the Finance and Transport departments for the past six months.

A senior bureaucrat told *The Hindu* that the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB) borrowing limit had been curtailed by the Union government, leading to a severe financial crunch. If the Centre lifted the curbs on the borrowing limit, the State government would give an undertaking to Railways committing to shoulder 50% of the project cost, he said.

The cost for Angamaly and Erumely route gone up to ₹3,801 crore. FILE PHOTO

50:50 cost-sharing

The project has been worked out on a 50:50 cost-sharing basis between Railways and Kerala.

The State had earlier earmarked ₹2,000 crore for the project from the KIIFB. However, the precarious financial position of the State and Railways' indecision on whether to go for the Angamaly-Erumely Sabari rail project or the elevated railway corridor from Chengannur to Pampa has put the project in limbo.

The final survey report for the Chengannur-Pampa proposal is yet to be submitted. It is a double-line project suggested by technocrat E. Sreedharan, while the 111-km Angamaly-Erumely project is a single-line project.

The Angamaly-Erumely project, sanctioned in the Railway Budget of 1997-98 at a cost of ₹550 crore, now costs ₹3,801 crore as per the revised estimate.

A railway line at a length of 8 km, a bridge over the Periyar, and a station at Kalady were constructed as part of the project at a cost of ₹264 crore.

It will bring around 14 towns in the eastern parts of the State onto the rail map.

Moreover, it can serve as a third line between central Kerala and Thiruvananthapuram, parallel to the existing rail network in the State if the line is extended to the Vizhinjam port. The Chengannur-Pampa project will benefit only seasonal pilgrims to Sabarimala.

Hyderabad ceases to be shared capital from today

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

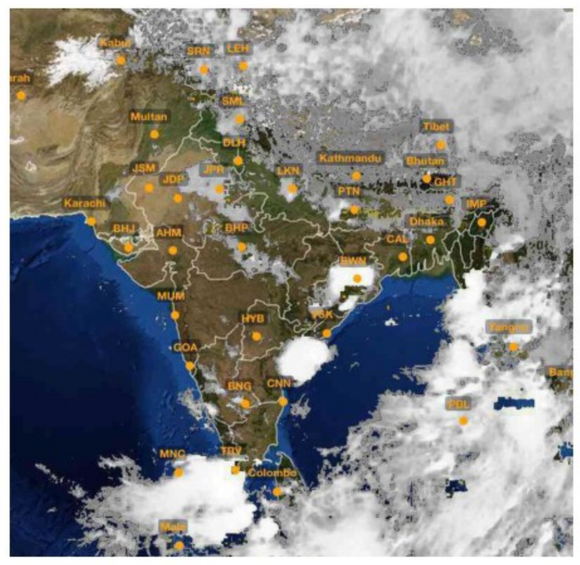
Hyderabad will cease to be a common capital from Sunday and will become the capital of Telangana.

Along with its status as capital of Telangana, infrastructure in the form of several buildings in the twin cities in possession of Andhra Pradesh will be taken over by the Telangana government. But the neighbouring State has agreed to vacate all the buildings other than those housing the Schedule IX and X institutions.

Offices of Film Development Corporation, Civil Supplies Corporation, Dairy Development Cooperative Federation, Vaidya Vidhana Parishad and other offices fall under Schedule IX and X institutions.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Odisha, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, Rayalaseema, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Mahe. Hot and humid weather likely to prevail over Konkan & Goa

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	37.2	28.0	Kozhikode	—	32.0	28.2
Ahmedabad	—	42.0	29.9	Kurnool	—	41.0	31.1
Aizawl	—	34.5	24.1	Lucknow	—	42.2	29.8
Allahabad	—	41.4	30.8	Madurai	—	38.8	27.6
Bengaluru	3.2	33.8	24.6	Mangaluru	—	33.4	27.8
Bhopal	—	42.5	30.4	Mumbai	—	35.5	29.4
Bhubaneswar	—	36.7	26.4	Mysuru	—	—	—
Chandigarh	—	44.5	27.2	New Delhi	—	44.2	30.2
Chennai	—	40.2	29.6	Patna	—	36.0	28.5
Coimbatore	—	33.5	26.2	Port Blair	61	29.0	25.1
Dehradun	—	32.1	24.4	Puducherry	—	37.2	29.6
Gangtok	1	20.0	16.6	Pune	—	38.2	26.6
Goa	—	35.5	28.6	Raipur	—	45.7	31.9
Guwahati	1	34.6	25.4	Ranchi	—	38.4	25.8
Hubballi	—	37.0	25.0	Shillong	2	26.0	17.6
Hyderabad	—	39.8	30.5	Shimla	—	34.0	27.8
Imphal	—	31.3	22.3	Srinagar	—	27.5	15.0
Jaipur	—	42.6	24.9	Thiruvananthapuram	0.4	34.0	25.6
Kochi	38	29.8	25.2	Tiruchi	—	39.1	28.0
Kohima	—	23.0	17.0	Vijayawada	—	37.8	31.4
Kolkata	4	35.4	27.2	Visakhapatnam	27	33.7	25.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.19	.61	.46	213	136	
Bengaluru	7	.28	.10	49	124	
Chennai	5	7	.96	95	—	
Delhi	.30	138	.46	417	348	
Hyderabad	.56	.31	.26	73	117	
Kolkata	5	.25	.15	65	60	
Lucknow	.11	.46	.23	204	163	
Mumbai	8	.31	.31	20	127	
Pune	.13	9	198	48	71	
Visakhapatnam	.12	.38	.39	50	79	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 373 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Gangtok, Sikkim recorded a healthy AQI score of 27

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Most exit polls paint a grim picture for ruling YSRCP

V. Raghavendra
VIJAYAWADA

The exit polls announced by various survey agencies and some national media outlets on Saturday indicated a clear edge for the TDP-BJP-Jana Sena Party (JSP) alliance over the ruling YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) in Andhra Pradesh in the 2024 election.

Going by a majority of these post-poll findings, the YSRCP, which won a record 151 seats in the Legislative Assembly and 22 Lok Sabha (LS) constituencies in 2019, appears to be in for a defeat at the hands of the NDA allies. The trend is more pronounced in favour of the alliance when it comes to the LS polls.

An exit poll pegged the NDA partners' tally in the Assembly at an impressive 111-135 compared to the YSRCP's 45-60, and another one predicted that the NDA would garner 139 seats and the YSRCP 36.

A prominent national media entity said that the TDP-BJP-JSP alliance will win 19-22 LS constituencies confining the YSRCP to just five to eight seats while another says the NDA and YSRCP are likely to win 22 and three LS seats respectively.

However, another survey claimed that the YSRCP is set to win 16-18 LS seats and the NDA between seven and nine seats.

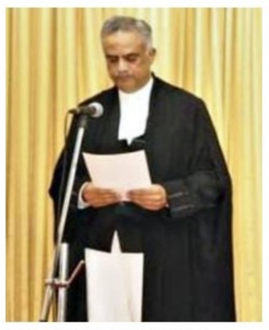
Kameswar Rao takes oath as HC judge

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

V. Kameswar Rao took oath as a judge of the High Court of Karnataka on Saturday. Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot administered the oath of office to him at a ceremony at Raj Bhavan.

Mr. Rao was transferred to the High Court of Karnataka from the Delhi High Court, where he had been for the past 11 years.

He will be the senior-most judge after the Chief Justice in the High Court of Karnataka. Born on August 7, 1965, Justice Rao secured BA (Hons) and LLB from Delhi University in 1987 and 1990 respectively, and enrolled as an advocate in 1991.



V. Kameswar Rao being administered the oath of office as judge of the Karnataka High Court in Bengaluru on Saturday.

He practised as a lawyer in the Delhi High Court, the Supreme Court, and the Central Administrative Tribunal's Principal Bench in New Delhi in various fields of law before he was elevated as Additional Judge of the Delhi High Court on April 17, 2013.

He was appointed as permanent judge of the Delhi High Court on March 18, 2015.

PUBLIC NOTICE

We, the following persons as mentioned below are the owners of Survey No. 9/1, 37/1, 12/1, 12/2, 35/3, 99/1,71/2, 71/3, 48/3, and 91 totally measuring 3 acre 34.8 guntas, 6 guntas karab land, all situated at Sadahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, which is more fully described in Schedule mentioned herein below and hereinafter referred to as "Schedule Properties".

Any person/s, entity, firm, banks, institution (corporate or otherwise) having any claim/s including any right, title, interest, charge, pending litigation or demand of any nature in or upon the Schedule Property or any part thereof, should bring the same to the notice of the undersigned in writing together with all details of the right, title, interest, claim, pending litigation or demand made, together with supporting documents within 7 (Seven) days from the date of this notice, failing which such claim/ shall be considered to have been unconditionally waived and / or given up and our client shall be entitled to complete any transaction in respect of the Schedule Property or any part thereof. Objections and / or claims received after the completion/expiry of the period stipulated above shall not be binding on our client.

SCHEDULE PROPERTIES
DESCRIPTION OF THE SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the land bearing survey numbers (described below) totally admeasuring 3 Acre 34.8 Guntas plus 6 guntas Karab Land, all situated Sadahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District and bounded as follows:

Sl. No.	Survey Number	Extent		Kharab (Guntas)		Owners	Bounderies			
		Acres	Guntas	A	B		East	West	North	South
1.	9/1	0	20	0	0	S.G. Chandrashekar Son of Govindaraju	Sy. No. 12/1 & 9/2	Sy. No. 7, 8/1,2	Sy. No. 13	Sy. No. 9/5
2.	37/1	0	08	0	0	S. K. Satyanarayana Son of Krishna Iyer	Sy. No. 37/5	Sy. No. 39 & 34	Sy. No. 39/3	Sy. No. 37/2
3.	12/1	0	10	0	02	Suresh	Sy. No. 12/2	Sy. No. 9/1 & 13	Sy. No. 78 & 78	Sy. No. 9/2
4.	12/2	0	10	0	0	Suresh	Sy. No. 11	Sy. No. 12/1	Sy. No. 79	Sy. No. 9/2 & 3
5.	35/3	0	05	0	0	S K Balasubramanyam AND S K Vimala	S K Shamrao's Property	S Y Govindappa's Property	Kamalamma's Property	Rajalakshmi's Property
6.	99/1	0	21	0	0	Shantamma Daughter of Anjinappa	Sy. No. 100	Sy. No. 93/3 & 99/4	Kempatimmanahalli village boundary	Sy. No. 99/2
7.	71/2	0	21	01	0	S V Ananda	Sy. No. 71/3	Sy. No. 71/1	Illthore village boundary	Sy. No. 73
8.	71/3	0	20	01	0	S V Ananda	Sy. No. 72/1	Sy. No. 71/2	Illthore village boundary	Sy. No. 73
9.	48/3	0	16.08	0	0	Narayanappa Vykuntabhovi	Sy. No. 49	Sy. No. 36	Sy. No. 48/4	Sy. No. 29
10.	91	0	23 out of 1 acre 07	0	2	SV Subramanya and others	Sy. No. 92;	Sy. No. 88;	Sy. No. 07 or Jogahalli village boundary	Land belongs Sy. No. 89;
Total Extent		3	34.8	02	04					

Abhijit Atur,
Advocate
M/s. Agraa Legal
2nd floor, No. 19,
Shivashankara Plaza,
Lalbagh Road, Richmond circle,
Bangalore - 560 027

Place : Bengaluru
Date : 01.06.2024

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No.: BE-29-2024 -25-0T-06
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tenders for the following work.

Description of Work	Appx. Value
Proposed construction of Type-II (5units), Type-III (4 units), Type-IV (3units), Type-V (1 unit) in Bengaluru area under Bengaluru Cantonment - Whitefield Quadrupling project : Construction of staff quarters-Electrical arrangements, Bengaluru - Renovation of Existing old RE Rest house 4 Nos. to convert as ORH at Bengaluru & Conversion of 10 rooms for ORH in the Exg old RE office at second floor of station building at Bengaluru, Bengaluru -Renovation of Existing four rooms of ORH on KSR station Building & Construction of SSE SIGNAL & TELE Office at first floor of SSE SRM office at SBC- Electrical Works.	Rs. 68,32,382/-

Last date for submission of bids:
Up to 15:00 hrs. of 18.06.2024

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer
PUB/123/AAV/PRB/SWR/2024-25 **Bengaluru**
South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NATIONAL HIGHWAYS AUTHORITY OF INDIA
(Ministry of Road Transport and Highways)

Corrigendum for Public Notice on user fee (Toll) rates at Nalluru Devanahalli Toll Plaza dated 27.03.2024

The public are hereby informed that Public Notification dated 27.03.2024 has issued revision of User Fee (Toll) rates at Nalluru Devanahalli Toll Plaza applicable from 01.04.2024 for use of Four laning from Km. 42.000 to Km. 79.600 of Doddaballapur Bypass to Hoskote section of NH-648 (Old NH-207) in the State of Karnataka (Package-II).

The public are hereby informed that revised User Fee Toll Rates at Nalluru Devanahalli Toll Plaza applicable w.e.f 03.06.2024 (00:00 hrs).

Note: The revised User Fee Toll rates, terms and condition unchanged as mentioned in Public Notice dated 27.03.2024.

Government of Karnataka
(PWD Division Raichur)
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT DIVISION RAICHUR
Telephone No. : 08532-225778 & 234747

KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION -(KW- 1,2, 3 & 4)

THESE WORKS ARE GENARAL, SC & ST CONTRACTORS

1) Notification No & Date: PWD/RDN/TS-4/TN/2024-25/539 Date: 31-05-2024 **2) Name of work's:** Raichur District Total 20 work's Raichur, Manvi, Deodurga, Lingasugur & Sindhanur taluk Different types of Buildings & Road works. **3) Amount of works:** Min Rs. 838539.00 Max Rs. 42015530.03 **4) EMD Amount :** Min Rs. 21000.00 Max Rs. 630300.00 **5) Period (including Manson):** Min 2 (two) Months Max 11 (Eleven) Months **6) Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tender:** 11/06/2024 16:00:00 **7) Date and Time for Opening of Tender:** 12/06/2024 16:30:00
For More details visit this website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/

SD/- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PWD Division, RAICHUR.
DIP/RCR/14/KSMC&A/14/2024-25

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
National Highways Authority of India
(MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA)
PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION UNIT-Ramagara (Mysore)

Corrigendum for Public Notice on User Fee (Toll) Rates at Kaniminike and Sheshagirihalli Toll Plaza dated 27.03.2024

The public are hereby informed that Public Notification dated 27.03.2024 has issued revision of User Fee (Toll) Rates at Kaniminike and Sheshagirihalli Toll Plaza applicable from 01.04.2024 to 31.03.2025 for use of Six Laning of BENGALURU-NIDAGATTA section Km. 18.000 to Km. 74.200 of NH-275 in the State of Karnataka.

The public are hereby informed that revised User Fee Toll Rates at Kaniminike and Sheshagiri Toll Plaza applicable w.e.f. 03.06.2024 (00.00 hrs.)

1.At km 23.900, Near Kaniminike Village, Bengaluru Urban District, At Km. 26.800 near Sheshagirihalli Village, Ramanagara District of NH-275 in the State of Karnataka having tolling Road Length of 55.63 Km.

Amount in Rs.

Category	Fee for single Journey	Fee for return journey within a day	Fee for monthly pass for 50 single journeys in a month	Local Monthly Pass
Car/ Jeep/ Van	170	255	5715	340
LCV/ LGV/ Mini Bus	275	415	9230	
Truck/ Bus (2 Axle)	580	870	19345	
3 Axle Comm. Vehicle	635	950	21100	
Heavy Construction Machinery/Earth Moving Equipment / Multi Axle Vehicle (MAV) (4-6 Axles)	910	1365	30335	
Oversized Vehicles (7 or more Axle)	1110	1660	36930	

2. The following concessions are available at above Toll Plaza:
   a. Return journey within 24 hours from time to time of payment of all categories of vehicles (Discount 25%).
   b. 50 Single journey in a month from date of payment for all categories of vehicles (Discount 33%).
   c. Pass at Rs.340 for calendar month for non-commercial vehicle residing within 20 Km from toll plaza
3. The list of exempted vehicles is as given in the amendment to Fee Rules dated 03.12.2010 vide GSR 950(E)
4. The vehicle, which is loaded in excess of permissible load, shall pay 10 times the applicable fee rate and most the excess load to make use of highway as per Sub Rule 1(A) of Rule 10 NH Fee Rule 2008.
5. For viewing of toll fee notification S.O No.402(E) dated 25.01.2023 published in Gazette of India extraordinary. The website **https://tis.nhai.gov.in** may be visited
6. For any complaints contact: **1033** and enquiry or giving suggestions please contact **Project Director,** Basavanapura, Ramadevarapada, Ramanagara-562128. **Ph: 080-29780089/ 81300 06077.**

BUILDING A NATION, NOT JUST ROADS

Zilla Panchayath, Tumkur
Office of The Executive Engineer,
Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Tumkur
NO.03/EE/RDWS&SD/TMK/JJM/AE-1&2&3/243/2024-25 Date: 28.05.2024

Short Term Tender Notification

On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water Supply & Sanitation Division Tumkur has Invites request for proposal tenders from the eligible bidders for the Two Cover work detailed in the table below. Tender procedure as per rule 28 of the KTPP act shall be followed. The tenders are Required to submit through Karnataka Public Procurement mode through portal. (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/) from Class-IV & above PWD Registered Contractors who have got adequate financial resources & sufficient past experience for the following JJM Works of Sira, Turuvekere, Tumkur, Madhugiri and Koratagere Taluk of Tumkur Dist. As per the schedule given below. (Minimum Tender Amount Rs.23.16 Lakhs EMD Amount Rs.46,320/- and Maximum Tender Amount Rs.98.23 Lakhs EMD Amount Rs.1,96,460/-)

Particulars & Details: 1. Last date of submit bids on Karnataka Public Procurement portal **11.06.2024** Upto 17.00 Hours. 2. Pre Bid Meeting (KW- 3 Works) : Date: **07.06.2024** at 11.00 AM Venue, Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking water & Sanitation Division Tumkur. 3. Technical Opening of Bids: **12.06.2024** at 17.30 PM onwards. 4. Financial Opening of Bids **15.06.2024** at 11.00 A M onwards.

For further particulars/details may avail from the office of the undersigned during office hours on all working days and may visit the website (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/)

Sd/- Executve Engineer,
RDW & S Division, Tumkur.
DIPR/TUM/18/KSMCA/2024-25

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SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM LIMITED
CIN U75302KL2017SGC05027
TENDER NOTICE
E-Tenders are invited for the following projects of Smart City Thiruvananthapuram Limited Project

Sl. No.	Name of Project	E-Tender id	PAC Amount (Exclusive of GST)	Bid Submission Last Date
1	Selection of Contractor for Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of EV charging station including Annual Maintenance for the first 5 years from the date of handing over after successful commissioning at Azhankal, Thiruvananthapuram.	2024_SCTLT_654634_2	Rs.10,45,000/-	10-JUNE-2024 11 AM

Date and Time of Opening Price Bid: To Be Intimated Separately to Technically Qualified Bidders by e-mail. All the RFP documents and details are available on the e-Procurement Website. Bids are only accepted online on the Website https://etenders.kerala.gov.in

(sd/-) CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM Ltd.

From Page One

NDA will form govt. for third time, say exit polls

The break-up of the Shiv Sena and the Nationalist Congress Party may end up increasing the seat-share of the INDIA bloc in the State, the polls showed, though the degree of rise varied widely among the pollsters.

In Karnataka, the NDA is expected to repeat its massive win in 2019. In Andhra Pradesh, the Telugu Desam Party-BJP-Jana Sena alliance is expected to cross 20 seats out of the possible 25, while in Telangana, the Congress is expected to put up a tough fight with many polls predicting a close election.

'Psychological games'

Reacting to the exit polls, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said, "The man whose exit is certain on June 4th has had these exit polls orchestrated. The INDIA Janbandhan will definitely get a minimum of 295 seats, which is a clear and decisive majority."

"The outgoing Prime Minister can remain smug for three days in the meanwhile. These are all psychological games he is masterminding but the actual results will be very different," he said on X. *(WIth PTI inputs)*

Last phase records 60% voter turnout

While votes cast in the Lok Sabha election and Assembly polls in Andhra Pradesh and Odisha will be counted on Tuesday from 8 a.m., counting for the Assembly elections in Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh will be held on Sunday.

"Through their emphatic participation, the voters have risen to the trust reposed by the founders of the Indian Constitution, when they handed over the power of suffrage to the ordinary Indian. The massive participation in the democratic exercise reaffirms the democratic ethos and spirit of India," the Election Commission said.

The poll body expressed its gratitude to the election machinery, including the security forces, the political parties and the candidates.

Tension in West Bengal

In West Bengal, tension gripped Sandeshkhali late on Friday night when a group of women came out on the streets protesting against alleged threats to their family members by Trinamool workers.

Clashes broke out on Saturday between Trinamool and BJP supporters with BJP candidate Rekha Patra alleging that Trinamool workers stopped people from voting. The Trinamool said Ms. Patra and the BJP workers tried to vitiate the poll atmosphere.

In Ballia in Uttar Pradesh, a 70-year-old man collapsed and died at a polling booth in Chak Bahuddin village.

Voting for the last phase was held in 57 seats amid a severe heat wave in northern India. A total of 906 candidates were in the fray and 10.06 crore electors were registered to exercise their franchise.

Strong canvassing

Some of the key constituencies that voted on Saturday were Varanasi, where the Congress's Ajai Rai is challenging Prime Minister Narendra Modi; Mandi, which will see a contest between the BJP's Kangana Ranaut and the Congress's Vikramaditya Singh; Chandigarh, where the Congress's Manish Tewari is in the fray against the BJP's Sanjay Tandon and Diamond Harbour where the Trinamool's second in-command Abhishek Banerjee is pitted against the CPI(M)'s Pratik Ur Rahman.

The high-octane campaign for the Lok Sabha election which ended last Thursday, saw political parties weaving narratives, often acrimonious, over issues ranging from caste, religion, reservation and citizenship.

With no immediate relief, Kejriwal to surrender today

He has been campaigning by travelling non-stop and widely across multiple States for the past 22 days, which would reflect that he is in a fit condition, Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, for ED, said

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Saturday reserved for June 5 its order on an interim bail plea filed by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who is accused in a money laundering case registered against him by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with the Delhi excise policy case.

With no immediate respite given by the court to the Delhi CM, who had sought interim bail on medical grounds, he has to return to jail on Sunday, on the expiry of the first interim bail granted to him by the Supreme Court to campaign for the Lok Sabha election earlier this month.

During the bail argument on Saturday, the ED maintained that when Mr. Kejriwal could campaign the length and breadth of the country for the elections, he could not fall sick when it was time to return

Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party leader Arvind Kejriwal shares a video message in New Delhi on Friday. ANI

to jail. "He has been campaigning by travelling nonstop and widely across multiple States for the past 22 days, which would reflect that he is in a fit condition and is neither 'sick nor infirm' warranting interim bail on medical grounds," Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, who appeared for the ED, said.

He added that Mr. Kejriwal seeking interim bail on the day the election campaign was ending was a clear abuse of the judicial process, and a breach of the principles governing the grant of interim bail.

In his bail application, the Delhi CM had claimed that he had lost nearly 7 kg of weight during his stay in jail, from March 21 till May 10, which he could not regain even after his release. He said he had suspected that weight loss, coupled with high ketone levels, could be indicative of kidney damage, cardiac ailments, and even cancer.

Denying Mr. Kejriwal's claims, Additional Solicitor-General S.V. Raju said that Mr. Kejriwal weighed 64 kg when he entered Tihar Jail. "Today, he says his weight was 65 kg. He has gained 1 kg. All these statements are only for sympathy," Mr. Raju said.

Senior Advocate N. Hariharan, who appeared for Mr. Kejriwal, claimed that his client was 69 kg when he was taken into custody.

Mr. Hariharan had earlier requested the court to decide the matter on June 1 itself, otherwise the plea would become infructuous.

Special judge (Prevention of Corruption Act), Kaveri Baweja, of the Rouse Avenue Court refused to entertain the request and said that the plea had said the accused was not asking for an extension of interim bail.

The judge said the order would be pronounced only on June 5.

Sri Lanka arrests alleged handler of IS suspects held in India

Press Trust of India
COLOMBO

The police recently announced a cash award of Rs. 2 million for any credible information on his whereabouts

Sri Lanka has arrested the suspected handler of four of its nationals who were arrested at the Ahmedabad airport for their alleged links with the banned Islamic State (IS) outfit.

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) in the island nation arrested 46-year-old Pushparaja Osman on Friday in Colombo.

The Sri Lanka Police recently announced a cash award of Rs. 2 million for any credible information on his whereabouts. The police had issued a wanted notice and a video of his, seeking information from the public.

The CID arrested him and he was believed to have made telephone contact with the four persons arrested at the Ahmedabad airport, the police said.

The Gujarat Anti-Terrorist Squad arrested four Sri Lankans with links to the IS at the airport in Ahmedabad. The four men took an IndiGo flight from Colombo to Chennai on May 19.

Commenting on the investigations so far, police spokesperson Nihal Thalduwa said Sri Lankan police were still unable to verify that the four are linked to the terror outfit.

"If they had promoted the IS ideology in Sri Lanka, it is yet to be established," he said.

Last month, the Sri Lankan authorities launched a high-powered operation to investigate the four Sri Lankans arrested in Gujarat.

The authorities say they would take no chances with possible IS activities in the island nation after the 2019 Easter Sunday attack that killed over 270 people. The investigations focused on whether the local jihadi group, which carried out the attack, was having links with IS at the time.

Police thwart gang's attempt to attack Salman Khan, nab 4

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

After the firing at the Bandra residence of Bollywood actor Salman Khan more than a month ago, the Navi Mumbai police on Friday said that another attempt was planned to attack the actor at his farmhouse in Panvel. In connection with the same, the police have arrested four persons recently.

The police have been suspecting gangster Lawrence Bishnoi's involvement in this case. So far, the police have arrested four persons identified as Dhananjay Tapesingh, alias Ajay Kashyap, Gaurav Bhatia, alias Nahvi, Waseem Chikna and Rizwan Khan last week associated with Lawrence Bishnoi's gang on suspicions of plotting an attack on Salman Khan.

Mr. Khan has been Bishnoi's gang target since his 1998 blackbuck shooting incident in Rajasthan, with ongoing threats directed towards him.

The accused are booked under Sections 115, 120(b), and 506, and the court has sent them to judicial custody for 14 days.

Panvel senior inspector Nitin Thakre received a tip-off indicating that members of the Bishnoi Lawrence gang were residing in the Panvel-Kalamboli area and conducting surveillance on Salman Khan's residence in Bandra, his farmhouse in Panvel, and his film shooting locations. The accused had been living in these areas from August 2023 to March 2024, as per the FIR.

The FIR was registered against 18 people, including Lawrence Bishnoi, Anmol Bishnoi, Sampat Nehra, and Goldy Brar.

The investigation has also revealed Pakistan's connection as Ajay Kashyap was allegedly in touch with a Pakistan-based person identified as Dogar to acquire weapons, including AK-47, AK-16, AK-92, and Zigana pistol. The gang's escape plan was to flee to Sri Lanka, the police added.

Pune car crash: mother of minor accused held for 'tampering with evidence'

Snehal Mutha
MUMBAI

The Pune Police have arrested the mother of a teenager who allegedly crashed his luxury car, killing two persons, while driving under the influence of alcohol.

She has been accused of swapping her blood sample with that of her minor son during the blood alcohol content test carried out at Sassoon General Hospital following the accident.

The mother, accused of evidence tampering, was presented in a local court for judicial custody.

The police requested the court to grant seven days' police custody for further investigation. Prior to her arrest, the Crime Branch recorded her statement at her residence.

Earlier, the doctors allegedly involved in swapping the samples – the hospital's Chief Medical Officer Shrihari Halnor, who took the blood sample

Congress workers carry out a candle march at the accident spot in Kalyani Nagar in Pune. EMMANUAL YOGINI

of the teenage driver, Ajay Taware of the forensic medicine department, and hospital staff member Atul Ghatkamble – were also arrested on charges of tampering with evidence.

Swapping samples

The police questioned hospital nurses, leading to the revelation of the mother's alleged role in the swapping of blood samples.

As the probe continues, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister and Nationalist Congress Party chief Ajit Pawar came to the defence of his party's MLA Sunil Tingre, who has been accused of seeking to influence the investigation, both through Dr. Taware and by his presence at the Yerwada police station immediately after the accident.

Mr. Pawar dismissed any accusations of wrongdoing on the part of Mr. Tingre. Reports have also surfaced that Mr. Tingre received 45 calls within an hour after the crash from the accused minor's father.

P.C. Chacko made NCP-SP working president

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Nationalist Congress Party-Sharadchandra Pawar (NCP-SP) on Saturday appointed senior leader P.C. Chacko as its national working president.

Mr. Chacko, an old Sharad Pawar loyalist, joined the NCP in 2021 after parting ways with the Congress.

The NCP-SP also appointed Rajiv Jha as the national general secretary of the party in charge of office administration.

Foundation day

Senior leader K.K. Sharma, who had joined the Ajit Pawar-led NCP, returned to the Sharad Pawar-led outfit. Earlier this week, Dheeraj Sharma, the president of the youth wing of the NCP-SP, joined the Ajit Pawar-led NCP.

Sharad Pawar also decided to celebrate June 10 as the party's foundation day, contending that it was the day he had formed the NCP.

Toll in Puri cracker blast mounts to 8, 22 in hospital

Press Trust of India
BHUBANESWAR

The toll in the explosion of a stockpile of firecrackers in Odisha's Puri mounted to eight on Saturday after two more persons undergoing treatment succumbed to their injuries, a senior official said.

At least 30 people were injured in the explosion that happened during Lord Jagannath's Chandan Jatra on Wednesday night. Among them, eight have died so far and 22 others are undergoing treatment in different hospitals.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has ordered an inquiry into the incident, and announced an *ex-gratia* amount of ₹4 lakh each to the next of kin of the deceased.

Archaeologists, Sanskrit scholars tie up to decipher Rigveda text

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

Taking forward the research to potentially establish a relationship between the Harappan civilisation and the people of the Vedic age, a group of archaeologists are now collaborating with Sanskrit scholars to decipher the text of the Rigveda.

In an exclusive interview with *The Hindu*, Vasant Shinde, archaeologist and former Vice-Chancellor of Deccan College, Pune, said that a clear understanding of what is mentioned in the Rigveda text is important in order to correlate archaeological evidence unearthed by his team in excavations of Harappan settlements at Haryana's Rakhigarhi and Banawali, at Kalibanga on the Haryana-Rajasthan boundary, and at Dholavira in Gujarat.

The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) recently made a major addition to the Class 12 History textbook, *Themes in Indian History Part 1*, under a chapter titled *Bricks, Beads and Bones – The Harappan Civilisation*, based on DNA evidence from the 4,600-year-old remains of a woman, indicating that the Harappans were an indigenous people.

More research needed

Mr. Shinde's work is now focussed on testing the hypothesis that the Harappans and the Vedic people were the same. The NCERT has added a disclaimer in the textbook that more research is required to establish this relationship.

"While excavating the site of Rakhigarhi, we found evidence of ritual platforms and fire altars. Parallely, fire worship is mentioned in Rigvedic texts. We now need to get more understanding about what is mentioned in Rigvedic text, and how much of that can be correlated with archaeological evidence. We have not done this in great detail, but now we want to do it," Mr. Shinde said.

Vasant Shinde's work is now focussed on testing the hypothesis that Harappans and Vedic people were the same. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Currently, there is a debate about the period of origin of the Vedas, with one set of historians holding that the Vedas originated between 2,000 BC and 1,500 BC. However, another set of historians, including Mr. Shinde, believe that the Vedas date farther back to 2,500 BC – or 4,500 years ago. This would coincide with the age of the genetic evidence from the erstwhile Harappan woman's bone samples tested at the Rakhigarhi site.

Mr. Shinde argues that nobody knows when the Vedic texts were written, adding that people will only believe hypotheses if one has the archaeological evidence to prove or disprove them.

A common thread

"If you see description in Rigvedic text of the area where people lived, there is frequent description of the Saraswati river. The mention of the river is recorded at least 71 times in the Rigvedic text. During archaeological excavations, we discovered a majority of Harappan settlements along the banks of the Saraswati. Of the nearly 2,000 known Harappan settlements spread over the Indus basin and in Gujarat, almost two-thirds, at least 1,200, are located along the basin of the Saraswati," Mr. Shinde says.

Another point of reference which may link the Harappans with Vedic times is a set of animal bones found and studied by two archaeo-zoologists in the Surkotada region of Kutch, Gujarat. While a group of researchers from Hungary stated that these bones belonged to a proper domesticated horse, another group from Harvard University headed by Richard Meadow concluded that these were the bones of a wild ass.

Mr. Shinde says that this opens up a point of debate. "Those who believe that the Harappans and Rigvedic people are the same cite the Hungarian reference of the animal bones being that of a horse, as horses find mention in Rigvedic texts. However, those historians who date the Rigveda to after 2,000 BC, believe Richard Meadow's theory that the animal bones were that of a wild ass as some scholars say domesticated horses came to India only after 1,800 BC from Central Asia," he says.

He further points out that some terracotta figurines of horse-like animals have been excavated from the Harappan sites of Lothal and Mohenjo-daro.

Contrary to the theory that there was a large scale immigration of Aryans from Europe to Central Asia and then to South Asia, the NCERT textbook revisions mention that the Harappans were indigenous to India, dating back to 10,000 BC.

Genetic similarities

Mr. Shinde's group carried out DNA analysis from the blood samples of 3,000 modern South Asians from different linguistic and religious groups, and found that most of them – from the Andaman and Nicobar islands to Ladakh and Kashmir, and from Afghanistan to Bengal – carried genetic similarities to the Harappan woman's skeleton.

Counting of votes of Arunachal and Sikkim Assembly elections today

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI

The results of the elections to the 60-member Arunachal Pradesh and the 32-member Sikkim Assemblies will be declared on Sunday, two days ahead of the outcome of the Lok Sabha election.

The contest in Sikkim is likely to be a close one between the ruling Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) and the Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF), which received a shot in the arm after the Hamro Sikkim Party, led by footballer Bhaichung Bhutia, merged with it in November 2023.

The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party enjoys an edge in Arunachal Pradesh, with 10 seats already in its kitty. Chief Minister Pema Khandu, Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein, and eight others won their respective seats uncontested.

"We will win most of the remaining 50 seats comfortably," Mr. Khandu said ahead of counting day.

The National People's Party (NPP), otherwise a constituent of the BJP-helmed National Democratic Alliance, contested 20 seats, the highest after the BJP. The Congress, battling for survival in the State for almost a decade now, contested 19 seats, followed by the Nationalist Congress Party with 14, the regional People's Party of Arunachal (PPA) with 11, the newly floated Arunachal Democratic Party with four, and the Lok Janshakti Party with one.

Poll profile

Counting of votes will take place in Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh on June 2

Sikkim

Party	Seats contested
Sikkim Krantikari Morcha	32
Sikkim Democratic Front	32
Bharatiya Janata Party	31
Citizen Action Party	30
Congress	12

Arunachal Pradesh

Party	Seats contested
Bharatiya Janata Party	50
National People's Party	20
Congress	19
Nationalist Congress Party	14
People's Party of Arunachal	11
Arunachal Democratic Party	4

Close contest

The Sikkim Assembly election is expected to be as close as the 2019 edition, in which the Prem Singh Tamang-led SKM won 17 seats to dislodge Pawan Kumar Chamling's SDF government. While the SKM's strength in the Assembly swelled to 19, Mr. Chamling was the only SDF legislator left by December 2019, with 10 of his MLAs joining the BJP.

Candidates of the BJP later won two bypolls, taking its tally to 12.

The BJP had supported the SDF without being a part of the government, but they severed their alliance ahead of the polls.

Observers say that the Citizen Action Party, a new crowdfunded party contesting 30 seats, could be a dark horse.

INDIA bloc will win 295 seats, says Kharge after meeting party leaders

Congress president says the number arrived at is based on a 'people's survey' rather than a '*sarkari* survey'; he has urged all parties to remain vigilant on June 4 to ensure that their polling agents stayed put till the last vote is counted

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

INDIA bloc parties will win at least 295 seats, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said at the end of a meeting of 13 Opposition parties at his residence in Delhi, offering a counter to the exit polls figures on Saturday.

He urged all polling agents of the Opposition parties to remain vigilant during the counting of votes on June 4 and not to leave the halls till the last vote is counted.

The figure of 295 was arrived on the basis of a State-wise assessment taking inputs from all the leaders present at the meeting. The INDIA bloc has also sought an appointment with the Election Commission to raise issues about the counting exercise.

"INDIA bloc will win at least 295 seats... it will be over that, but not less. We have analysed after discussing with all the leaders, and there is no doubt in the number. This is a people's survey, based on the information given by people," Mr. Kharge told press-persons.

United front: INDIA bloc leaders soon after holding a meeting at Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge's residence in New Delhi on Saturday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Terming the exit polls "*sarkari* survey" (government's survey), Mr. Kharge said the 295 figure that the INDIA bloc had reached was a result of "*janata ka* survey" (people's survey).

Each of the leaders was asked to give their assessment of the INDIA bloc's electoral performance.

A source said that Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav expressed the view that even by a conservative outlook, he expected the alliance to win at least 50% of the seats in Uttar Pradesh.

RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav made a similar prediction for Bihar, claiming half of the 40 seats for the bloc.

In Maharashtra, where two factions of the Shiv Sena and the NCP are fighting each other in opposing alliances, former Chief Minister Sharad Pawar said that the INDIA bloc could win 26 seats out of the 48 in the State.

The leaders concluded that the bloc would do exceedingly well in the southern States, leaving no berths for the BJP in Kerala and Tamil Nadu. The Congress, by its assessment, could win up to 15 seats in Karnataka and 10 in Telangana.

"There was a general consensus, that in this election the INDIA bloc has been able to establish a bond with the voters and there is a sentiment to vote out the Narendra Modi government. Anything more than 230 for the BJP will clearly show there was manipulation," a senior leader who attended the meeting said.

During the meeting, it was also decided that the INDIA bloc should be represented at the television debates on the exit polls. The Congress on Friday night had announced that it would not be sending any representative for these debates, arguing against the exit polls. But Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and former Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren's wife Kalpana Soren argued that the INDIA bloc should not leave the field open for the BJP-led NDA and insisted that their narrative should also be presented.

The Trinamool Congress excused itself from the meeting, citing polling for crucial nine seats in the last phase of polls. Congress Parliamentary Party chief Sonia Gandhi, and senior leaders Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and K.C. Venugopal were among those representing the Congress.

Three Chief Ministers. Arvind Kejriwal (Delhi), Bhagwant Mann (Punjab) and Champai Soren (Jharkhand) were present.

Former Maharashtra CM Sharad Pawar, CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury, CPI general secretary D. Raja, CPI(ML) general secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya, T.R. Baalu from the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), Anil Desai from the Shiv Sena (UBT) and Mukesh Sahani from the Vikassheel Insaan Party participated.

EVM dumped in pond, bombs hurled in Bengal as violence mars poll day

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Several incidents of violence marred polling in the last phase of the Lok Sabha election held in nine constituencies in West Bengal. About 73.56% polling was recorded in the State.

Violence was reported in Sandeshkhali, Bhangar, Kultali, Canning and parts of Diamond Harbour. Many were injured in the violence that surpassed the incidents during the six previous phases in magnitude.

Clashes broke out between supporters of the BJP and the Trinamool Congress in several areas of Sandeshkhali. There was unrest in the Bermajur area with women supporters of the BJP alleging that they were beaten up by the police and security personnel. While at Sheikhpara, Trinamool supporters alleged that they were attacked by the BJP workers, at Bayramari, the police and villagers were seen throwing stones at each other. The security forces fired tear gas shells to disperse the mob.

Tight security: Voters at a polling station in north Kolkata on Saturday. DEBASISH BHADURI

Kultali in Jaynagar was on the boil since morning when villagers allegedly looted election material including EVMs from a poll booth and dumped it in a pond. The incident occurred before voting began at 7 a.m.. The Chief Electoral Officer's office said an FIR has been lodged and necessary action has been initiated.

Canning, a town in South 24 Parganas district, witnessed violence where voters and a local television journalist were injured in stone throwing.

Bhangar, which falls under the Jadavpur constituency, witnessed early-morning violence with crude bombs being hurled. There were reports of violence between Trinamool supporters and workers of the Indian Secular Front. Responding to an X post by BJP leader Amit Malaviya, the police took to social media, and said the incident happened around 6 a.m., before the polling began. "Police and CAPF immediately intervened and have taken steps against miscreants. Legal action initiated," they said.

Modi confident of NDA win, terms INDIA an 'opportunistic' alliance

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday exuded confidence that the people of India had voted in record numbers to re-elect the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government, adding that the "opportunistic" INDIA bloc had failed to strike a chord with them.

In a series of posts on X, Mr. Modi thanked all those who exercised their franchise. "I would also like to specially appreciate India's *Nari Shakti* and *Yuva Shakti*. Their strong presence at the polls is a very encouraging sign," he said.

Targeting the Opposition Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) bloc, Mr. Modi said it was "casteist, communal and corrupt".

Paying obeisance: Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Vivekananda Rock Memorial in Kanniyakumari on Saturday. ANI

"This alliance, aimed to protect a handful of dynasties, failed to present a futuristic vision for the nation. Through the campaign, they only enhanced their expertise on one thing – Modi bashing. Such regressive politics has been rejected by the people," Mr. Modi said.

Mr. Modi complimented the NDA *karyakartas* (workers) who motivated people to come out and vote. He also complimented the Election Commission for ensuring a smooth and fair electoral process. "Heartfelt gratitude to our outstanding security forces for their unwavering vigilance during the entire election," he said.

'Dedicated to nation'

Earlier in the day, Mr. Modi, after completing his 45-hour meditation on the Vivekananda Rock Memorial in Kanniyakumari, said that every moment of his life would be dedicated to the service of the nation.

In a note written in Hindi, posted by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on X, Mr. Modi said, "My meditation at this *Shila Smarak* is one of the unforgettable moments of my life. Sitting at the feet of 'Ma Bharati', I once again reaffirm my resolve that every moment of my life and every particle of my body will always be dedicated to the service of the nation".

70.67% turnout in Odisha as voters line up to cast their ballots amid scorching heat

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

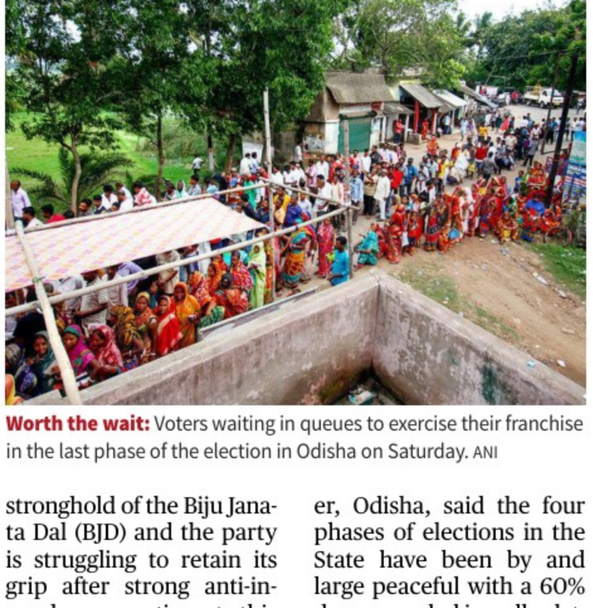
In the last phase of the election, Odisha recorded a voter turnout of 70.67% in six Lok Sabha constituencies that went to the polls amid hot and humid conditions on Saturday.

Long queues of voters seen outside polling stations in the evening hours.

The Lok Sabha constituencies in the State's coastal region that went to the polls were Mayurbhanj, Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara and Jagatisinghpur.

The fate of 66 candidates in six Lok Sabha seats and 394 candidates in 42 Assembly seats got sealed in electronic voting machines (EVMs) in Odisha on Saturday.

The State's coastal region is considered to be a stronghold of the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) and the party is struggling to retain its grip after strong anti-incumbency sentiments this time around.



Worth the wait: Voters waiting in queues to exercise their franchise in the last phase of the election in Odisha on Saturday. ANI

Addressing a press conference, Nikunja Bihari Dhal, Chief Electoral Officer, Odisha, said the four phases of elections in the State have been by and large peaceful with a 60% drop recorded in poll-related violence, violation of Model Code of Conduct (MCC) and other electoral offences.

Punjab, Himachal and Chandigarh see a drop in voter turnout this time

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, and the Union Territory of Chandigarh on Saturday recorded a voter turnout of 61.29%, 70%, and 67.90%, respectively, for the Lok Sabha election, all registering a drop in comparison to the 2019 election

The polling across all these States was peaceful, according to officials.

In the 2024 election, Punjab saw an overall 61.29% voter turnout for the 13 Lok Sabha seats, which in 2019 was 65.94%.

Punjab is witnessing a four-cornered electoral battle among the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), which came to power with a thumping majority in the State in 2022, its key challenger, the Congress, besides Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) and the Bharatiya Janta Party.

Voters standing in line to cast their vote during the Lok Sabha elections, at a polling booth in Amritsar on Saturday. ANI

Among those who cast their votes early were Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, State BJP chief Sunil Jakhar, AAP leader Raghav Chadha, BJP candidate Taranjit Singh Sandhu, SAD candidate Anil Joshi and former cricketer Harbhajan Singh.

Himachal Pradesh registered a 70% voter turnout this time for its four seats, which in 2019 was 72.42%. Simultaneous byelections to six Assembly seats were also held in Himachal Pradesh, which saw a voter turnout of 69%. These byelections were necessitated following the disqualification of the Congress MLAs from the Legislative Assembly for defying a party whip in February.

Direct fight

In Himachal, the stakes for the BJP, which swept all four Lok Sabha seats in the State twice – in 2014 and 2019, are high as the elections are poised to be a direct fight between the BJP and the Congress, which is in power in the State.

The lone seat of Chandigarh registered a 67.90% voter turnout against 70.61% in the 2019 Lok Sabha election. In Chandigarh, BJP's Sanjay Tandon and the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) joint candidate of the Congress Manish Tewari are in a direct contest.

(With PTI inputs)

Shah indulging in 'brazen intimidation', says Congress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh on Saturday accused Home Minister Amit Shah of interference in the polling process.

In a message posted on social media platform X, Mr. Ramesh said, "The outgoing Home Minister has been calling up District Magistrates/Collectors. So far he has spoken to 150 of them. This is blatant and brazen intimidation, showing how desperate the BJP is. Let it be very clear: the will of the people shall prevail, and on June 4, Mr. Modi, Mr. Shah, and the BJP will exit, and the INDIA *janbandhan* will be victorious. Officers should not get under any pressure and must uphold the Constitution. They are under watch."

INBRIEF

'Genocide' in Gaza, not war: Yechury at solidarity protest

Israel's ongoing offensive in Gaza is "not a war, but a genocide", Communist Party of India (Marxist) general secretary Sitaram Yechury said on Saturday during a protest in solidarity with Palestine held at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi. The CPI(M) and other left-wing organisations demanded an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and also accused the BJP-led government of supporting Israel. "War is between two Armies, both sides have weapons. Here, the attack is on unarmed people. This is unacceptable," Mr. Yechury said. "The whole world should create pressure on Israel to stop the offensive," he said. PTI

Air India apologises for flight delay, offers $350 voucher

Air India has apologised and offered a travel voucher of $350 each to the passengers of the San Francisco flight that took off from the national capital after a delay of more than 30 hours. There were 199 passengers, according to a source. After the delay, the flight took off at 9.55 p.m. on Friday and landed at San Francisco at 45 minutes past Saturday noon. "Please allow me to sincerely apologise, on behalf of Air India, for the extended delay in bringing you to San Francisco, which was caused by several technical delays and other operational constraints," Air India executive vice-president and chief operating officer Klaus Goersch said in a letter to the passengers. PTI

'Philippines to pursue robust collaboration with India'

Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr has said that his government will pursue "more robust collaboration" with "friends" such as India as collaborative endeavours to build pillars that support the architecture of regional stability. "Under our Comprehensive Archipelagic Defence Concept, we shall develop our capacity to project our forces into areas where we must by constitutional duty and by legal right protect our interest and preserve our patrimony... And as we build our defence capabilities, so shall we continue to invest in diplomacy," Mr. Marcos said at the annual Shangri-La Dialogue on Friday. PTI

Govt. dismisses CRPF DIG on charges of sexual misconduct

The Union government has dismissed a Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Deputy Inspector-General (DIG) from service on charges of sexual misconduct levelled against him by some women personnel of the country's largest paramilitary force, officials said on Saturday. An order from the President's office for "dismissal from service" was issued on May 30 against Khajan Singh. The dismissal from service is effective from May 31, the order said. Mr. Singh, who was posted in Navi Mumbai under the western sector of the force, had denied the allegations of sexual harassment, and claimed that they were "absolutely false" and made to spoil his "image". PTI

SUDOKU

				3	4	2		
8				2			7	1
2			8			3		9
9	8							
		5				6		
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7		3			6			2
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No.SS6177 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

1	4	7	3	8	9	2	5	6
9	3	5	7	6	2	4	1	8
8	6	2	5	1	4	9	7	3
6	2	3	9	7	5	8	4	1
5	8	4	2	3	1	6	9	7
7	9	1	6	4	8	3	2	5
2	5	6	8	9	7	1	3	4
4	7	8	1	2	3	5	6	9
3	1	9	4	5	6	7	8	2

IMD decides to replace sensor at Mungeshpur, says it's faulty

The temperature sensor is at an automatic weather station, one of 16 deployed by the IMD in Delhi; its May 29 reading was an unusual three degrees higher than the previous day's; instruments at all 16 stations will undergo a maintenance check

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

The aberrant sensor that recorded 52.9 degrees Celsius at Mungeshpur in Delhi on May 29 will be replaced, an internal committee of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has decided. Also, all the automatic weather stations managed by the IMD will undergo a maintenance check.

Because the sensor was faulty, the actual temperature at Mungeshpur on that day will remain a mystery.

As *The Hindu* had reported, the Mungeshpur reading was an unusual three-degree rise from the previous day's reading of 49.9 degrees Celsius at the station.

It was nearly 4.5 degrees higher than the hottest temperature ever recorded out of Delhi, at Palam in May 1998.

Mercury rising: A man stands near an automatic weather station at dusk in Mungeshpur, a Delhi suburb, on May 29. AFP

Mungeshpur is an automatic weather station, one of 16 deployed by the IMD to measure variations in temperature, humidity, and rainfall across Delhi. They work differently from the agency's five "departmental" or manually operated weather stations that have been the official source of Delhi's weather for decades. The manual weather stations have people who read a traditional thermometer to measure and report temperatures four times a day. The AWS, on the other hand, relies on sensors (thermistors) and generates meteorological values on demand to make information available on the agency's website on an hourly basis.

"The expert team of IMD checked the authenticity of the temperature reported at Mungeshpur by comparing it with standard instruments on 29th and 30th May 2024 at the site. It is found that there is a positive bias in reported temperature. The bias varies during the day being maximum around the time of occurrence of maximum temperature," their report concluded.

IMD Director-General M. Mohapatra said that the instrument was being replaced.

The committee also recommended that "automatic quality control", or unusual readings being reported out of AWS stations, ought to be verified before being disseminated on public platforms.

On May 30, a similar anomalous temperature of 56 degrees Celsius was reported out of a weather station in Nagpur and again attributed to a faulty sensor.

Seven of a family dead as boat capsizes in M.P. river

The Hindu Bureau
BHOPAL

At least seven members of a family, five of them children, died after a boat they took to cross the Seep river in Sheopur district of Madhya Pradesh capsized on Saturday, the police said.

The police said that of the 11 people aboard, four had been rescued, but seven were unresponsive and later declared brought dead in a hospital.

Rajeev Kumar Gupta, Sub-Divisional Police Officer, Sheopur, told *The Hindu* that a family from the Badouda area of the district was crossing the river after visiting a relative.

"There were fast winds which turned the boat over shortly before it was about to reach the river bank," Mr. Gupta said.

Additional Superintendent of Police, Sheopur, Satendra Singh Tomar said a rescue operation by personnel of the local police and the State Disaster Emergency Response Force was launched.

Assam floods death count rises to 15; close monitoring needed, warns CWC

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The toll in floods in Assam increased to 15 after three more persons lost their lives in the calamity, as the number of affected population went up to over six lakh, an official bulletin said on Saturday.

The number of affected people was 3.5 lakh in 11 districts on Friday.

An Assam State Disaster Management Authority release, however, said the number of affected districts has come down to 10.

One death each was reported from Cachar, Hailakandi and Karimganj districts, taking the toll in floods and storms from May 28 to 15.

'Potential flooding'

Kerala and Assam are facing severe flooding due to two cyclonic systems, the Central Water Commission (CWC) said on Saturday. The panel advised continuous monitoring and preparedness for further potential flooding.

A man carries his cycle while walking through a flooded road after the landfall of Cyclone Remal in Nagaon district of Assam. PTI

The CWC has released its flood situation report, detailing significant rainfall and resultant severe flood conditions in various regions of the country with Kerala and Assam being the most affected.

One cyclone over Arunachal Pradesh, combined with strong winds from the Bay of Bengal, has brought heavy rain to the northeastern States such as Assam, Meghalaya and Sikkim.

Another cyclone off the coast of south Kerala has caused heavy rainfall in the coastal State.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted more heavy rain. The key rivers in Assam such as Subansiri, Jiabharali and Kopili are swelling, affecting districts such as Tinsukia, Darrang and Nalbari, the advisory said.

Kerala has also experienced extremely heavy rainfall with Udumbannoor recording 23 cm and Urumi seeing 14 cm of rain, the advisory said.

Locations such as Kottayam and Poonjar received 11 cm, while Vadavathur got 10 cm. The CWC has warned of potential water level rises in several rivers across the State, including the Muvattupuzha, Gayatri, Thodupuzha, Bharathapuzha, Kabini, Karuvannur and Periyar.

The IMD has forecast continued heavy rainfall in districts such as Thrissur, Kozhikode, Idukki, Palakkad, Malappuram and Wayanad.

The advisory gave data as per which Assam is grappling with severe flood conditions with six stations reporting severe floods and one station above normal flood levels. The forecast suggests water levels will remain above warning levels for the next seven days in various stations.

The CWC has advised preparedness for potential flooding, particularly in Assam and Kerala. The flood situation is being closely monitored and real-time updates are available on the CWC and IMD websites.

U.P. to raise heatwave vigilance, to expedite relief for victims

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday in Lucknow chaired a high-level meeting in relation to the heatwave conditions in the State, and directed top officials to maintain special vigilance in sensitive districts and make arrangements to provide compensation to victims within 24 hours.

"He also directed officials to prepare and submit a weekly report to the Chief Minister's office. Different departments have been asked to initiate coordinated effort," read a statement from the State government.

Uttar Pradesh has been witnessing intense heatwave conditions with temperatures rising as high as 48 degrees Celsius. Prabhu Narayan Singh, Relief Commissioner (additional charge), said that the department had prepared an action plan in April, given that the State experienced extreme heat and heatwaves every year. "Under this plan, continuous work is being carried out in every district of the State. The general public is being made aware of the dos and don'ts to protect themselves from the heatwave and stay safe. Residents are being informed through newspapers, radio jingles, posters, and loudspeakers so that they not only safeguard themselves but also warn others. Additionally, special monitoring is being carried out by the department in the State's highly-sensitive cities. In these cities, teams formed by the district administration are continuously inspecting the field," he said.

The State also instructed all the 75 District Magistrates to immediately share information regarding casualties due to the heatwave with the government so that compensation can be provided to the affected families within 24 hours.

Ensure Agniveers receive same benefits as any soldier, Rahul writes to President

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Opposition parties have already announced a repeal of the scheme if they come to power

Alleging discrimination in the nature and extent of benefits given to the families of Agniveers who are killed in action, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday wrote to President Droupadi Murmu to intervene and ensure benefits to them as regular soldiers.

In a two-page letter, Mr. Gandhi appealed to Ms. Murmu to provide *nyay* (justice) to Agniveers.

"I recognise that a President does not generally interfere in matters of policy, which are the domain of the elected government. However, I believe an exception is warranted in this case, given the seriousness of this issue and your unique position. You are the Supreme Commander of India's Armed Forces. You have taken an oath to devote yourself to the well-being of the people of India," Mr. Gandhi said in his letter of May 31, posted on X on Saturday.

The Congress leader narrated his experience of meeting the family of a 23-year-old Aginveer from Punjab, Ajay Kumar, who was killed in a landmine blast in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Ajay's promising life was tragically cut short at such a young age. In addition, I was also shocked to find his family living in abject poverty. I met his six sisters, and parents, who work as daily wage labourers, in their single-room home," he said.

He added that the family of the Aginveer had not received any of the lifetime benefits or social security measures.

"There can be no clearer illustration of the fundamental flaw in the Agnipath scheme – the creation of a 'lesser' cadre of soldiers who are expected to work on similar tasks with lower pay, benefits and prospects," Mr. Gandhi said, adding that the Opposition parties have already announced a repeal of the scheme if they come to power.

"Therefore, I appeal to you to use your distinguished office to do *nyay* – justice – to Agniveer soldiers who lay down their lives, by ensuring that they receive the same benefits as any soldier who makes the highest sacrifice for our motherland," he added.

Justice Hima Kohli heads gender sensitisation and internal complaints panel

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Justice Hima Kohli has been nominated as the Chairperson of the Supreme Court's Gender Sensitisation and Internal Complaints Committee on Friday.

"Gender sensitisation is the cornerstone of a fair and just society. It serves as a vital tool in dismantling inherent biases and fostering an environment where everyone, regardless of gender, can live and work with dignity and respect," Justice Kohli said in the committee's annual report for 2023.

Justice B.V. Nagarathna, who is in line to be the first woman Chief Justice of India, is a member of the Committee.

"Sexual harassment is the antithesis of the ideal of equality that ought to inform every dimension of our public and private lives," Justice Nagarathna said.

Justice Hima Kohli

The Supreme Court came under the spotlight in 2019 when a woman employee accused none other than Justice Ranjan Gogoi, who was then Chief Justice of India, of sexually harassing her.

An in-house inquiry conducted by a three-judge panel led by Justice S.A. Bobde, who succeeded Justice Gogoi as Chief Justice, gave him a clean chit after holding hearings behind closed doors.

The events of 2019 exposed the lacuna when a complaint was filed against the CJI. This is telling, especially when it is the CJI who sets up the Gender Sensitisation and Internal Complaints Committee.

In the current Gender Sensitisation and Internal Complaints Committee, Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud has included both women judges in the exercise of his powers under Regulation 4(2) of the Gender Sensitisation & Sexual Harassment of Women at the Supreme Court of India (Prevention, Prohibition & Redressal) Regulations, 2013.

The committee should have not less than seven members and not more than 13 members.

INBRIEF

'Property registrations in Mumbai city rose 22% in May

Registration of properties in Mumbai municipal region increased 22% during May to 12,000 units driven by strong housing demand, according to real estate consultant Knight Frank. Citing Maharashtra government data, Knight Frank India said Mumbai city (area under BMC jurisdiction) recorded about 12,000 property registrations last month as against 9,823 units in May last year. State exchequer got ₹1,034 crore in May, up 24% from the same month last year. PTI

Purvankara unit buys 12.75-acre land in Thane

Real estate developer Purvankara Ltd. said its wholly-owned subsidiary Purva Oak Pvt. Ltd. has acquired 12.75 acre of land in Thane, near Mumbai for an unspecified amount. "The land has an estimated potential carpet area of 18.20 lakh sq. ft. and a potential Gross Development Value (GDV) of ₹4,000 crore," the company said. "We have added over ₹7,500 crore GDV to our Mumbai Metropolitan Region portfolio between three acquisitions," said MD Ashish Puravankara.

Stellantis names Hazela as CEO, MD of India operations

Automaker Stellantis on Saturday said it has appointed Shailesh Hazela as CEO and MD of India operations. Mr. Hazela succeeds Aditya Jairaj, who will be relocating to the U.S. Previously, Mr. Hazela served as Vice President, Global Purchasing and Supply Chain for India & Asia Pacific region for Stellantis. He brings a wealth of experience and a proven track record in driving growth and innovation, the company said in a statement. PTI

GST collections slide to ₹1.73 lakh cr.

May's mop-up is lower than the ₹2.10 lakh crore collected in April but higher than the same month last year, indicating stable economic growth; gross GST collections in FY 25 till May increase 11.3% year-on-year to ₹3.83 lakh crore driven by strong domestic transactions, Finance Ministry data shows

Shishir Sinha
NEW DELHI

Collection from Goods & Services Tax (GST) in May stood at ₹1.73 lakh crore, the Finance Ministry reported on Saturday. It was lower than ₹2.10 lakh crore in April but higher than the ₹1.57 lakh crore collected in May 2023.

Collection in May is related to consumption of goods and services availed of in April. Experts believe that with the May print, average collection of ₹1.7 lakh crore is the "new normal" against ₹1.6 lakh crore of FY24.

Imports edge up

According to a Finance Ministry statement, the gross GST collections in FY 25 till May stood at ₹3.83-lakh crore. This represents an impressive 11.3% year-on-year growth, driven by a strong increase in domestic transactions (up 14.2%) and marginal increase in imports (up 1.4%). After accounting for refunds, the net GST revenue in the FY 25 till May stands at ₹3.36-lakh crore, reflecting a growth of 11.6% compared to the same period last year, the ministry added.

Steady resilience: The number is in line with GDP estimates which indicate a robust economy not hit by polls or heatwave. THE HINDU

Commenting on the collection, M.S. Mani, Partner with Deloitte, said the latest number is in line with the recent GDP estimates which indicate a robust economy which does not appear to have been impacted much either by the election season or the heatwave across the country.

'Election spending'

Saurabh Agarwal, Partner with EY, said a rise in GST collections from Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Puducherry, and Arunachal Pradesh suggest growing consumption in these developing regions, indicating broader economic progress. "Increased GST in northern states like Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, etc., might be due to election spending and a surge in purchases of fans, coolers, and ACs caused by high temperatures compared to last year. However, a decline from last month's collections could be due to year-end tax payments in May and potentially stagnant auto sales," he said.

Vivek Jalan, Partner of Tax Connect Advisory Services, said, "Another reason for high collections is the recovery action taken by some GST departments for recovery of 100% of demand amounts barring set up of GST Tribunal."

(The writer is with The Hindu businessline)

India's fuel use in May broke records

Rishi Ranjan Kala
NEW DELHI

India's petrol and diesel consumption broke all records in May, aided by higher demand on campaigning and voting in the ongoing Lok Sabha elections and the beginning of summer vacations.

Besides, higher usage also reflects the world's third-largest crude oil importer's expanding industrial base and growing demand for personal and commercial mobility.

According to the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell, diesel consumption rose to a record 8.4 million tonne (mt) last month compared witho the previous record of 8.2 mt in May 2023. Petrol usage rose to 3.5 mt against the previous high of 3.4 mt.

Diesel usage rose by 2.4% y-o-y and 6.3% m-o-m in May, while petrol consumption was up 3% y-o-y and 6% m-o-m.

(The writer is with The Hindu businessline)

Auto wholesales lag in May as top carmakers witness marginal gains

S. Ronendra Singh
NEW DELHI

Maruti Suzuki India, the country's largest passenger vehicles maker, reported total domestic wholesales (dispatches to dealers) of 1,44,002 units in May, marginally up from the 1,43,708 units sold in the same month last year.

"The industry volume during the month (for passenger vehicles) is 3,50,257 units, up from 3,35,436 units in May 2023, which is a growth of around 4.5%," Partho Banerjee, Senior Executive Officer, Marketing & Sales, Maruti, told reporters adding the company's has an order book of around 1.68 lakh vehicles.

Small gains: Passenger vehicles industry volume in May was 3,50,257 units, a growth of 4.5%, says Maruti's Banerjee. REUTERS

Similarly, Hyundai Motor India (HMIL), registered YoY growth of 1.13% in domestic wholesales to 49,151 units in May.Tarun Garg, COO, Hyundai, said the firm had 44,774 units in dealer stock.

'Seltos' maker Kia India, registered single-digit growth (5%) in its sales to 19,500 units in May.

Tata Motors reported a growth of 2% YoY to 46,697 units (45,878 units).

Mahindra & Mahindra's May sales rose 17% to 43,218 units (32,883 units). "We sold a total of 43,218 SUVs in May, a growth of 31% YoY, and total vehicle sales hit 71,682, a 17% growth over May last year," said Veejay Nakra, President, Auto Division, M&M.

In two-wheelers, TVS Motor registered a 7% YoY growth in domestic sales to 2,71,140 units. Suzuki Motorcycle India reported a 37% sales growth . However, Royal Enfield dispatches declined 10% to 63,531 units (70,795 units).

(The writer is with The Hindu businessline)

U.S. inflation quickened moderately in April, consumer spending weakened

Reuters

U.S. inflation tracked sideways in April and consumer spending weakened, mixed signals for the Federal Reserve that provided little clarity on whether the U.S. central bank will be able to begin cutting interest rates in September.

The data suggested the elevated pace of price increases could last longer than expected but also the prospect that more tepid consumer spending may keep a lid on price increases in the months ahead.

"People have been pinched for a while, and it's likely starting to show ... This cooling is encouraging for slower inflation in the coming months," said Elizabeth Renter, a senior economist at NerdWallet.

No relief yet: The data suggested the elevated pace of price increases could last longer. GETTY IMAGES VIA AFP

The personal consumption expenditures (PCE) price index increased 0.3% last month, the Commerce Department's Bureau of Economic Analysis said on Friday, matching the unrevised gain in March.

In the 12 months through April, the PCE price index rose 2.7% after advancing at the same pace in March. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast it would climb 0.3% on the month and 2.7% on a year-on-year basis. The PCE price index is one of the inflation measures tracked by the U.S. central bank for its 2% target. Monthly inflation readings of 0.2% over time are needed to bring inflation back to target.

Consumer spending, which accounts for more than two-thirds of U.S. economic activity, rose by 0.2% in April after a downwardly revised 0.7% rise in March.

Revised gross domestic product data released on Thursday showed consumer spending moderating to a 2% pace in the first quarter from October-December's brisk 3.3% pace.

Cotton area set to shrink in the North

M. Soundariya Preetha
COIMBATORE

Area under cotton sowing in the northern States of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan is expected to be 25% lower this year, according to representatives of the cotton sector.

Nishant Asher, secretary of the Indian Cotton Federation, said the current cotton marketing season will end in September and the cotton availability situation is comfortable so far. At present, Indian cotton prices were 5% - 7% higher than international prices. However, sowing in the three States was said to be lower for the next season as farmers were unable to get remunerative prices.

"There is an urgent need to focus on seeds to improve yield so that farmers get better returns," Mr. Asher said.

'Poor returns'

Pankaj Shardha, a farmer and cotton ginner in Punjab, said the three States had 16.25 lakh hectares under cotton for the current season. For the last two or three years, farmers had been affected by pest attacks, unseasonal rains, and low yield. "The farmers got an average of just about ₹5,500 a quintal while the minimum support price ranged from ₹6,700-7,000," he said. For the next season, the area was down 25% in Punjab and Haryana, he added.

जवाहरलाल स्नातकोत्तर आयुर्विज्ञान शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान संस्थान
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Competitive Examination (Stage-I) for Recruitment to the post of
SENIOR RESIDENTS - JUNE 2024 AT JIPMER PUDUCHERRY

Online applications are invited from Indian citizens as per Govt. of India Residency Scheme, for tenure post of Senior Residents for a maximum period upto 3 years at JIPMER Puducherry. These posts include existing vacant posts, backlog vacancies for SC, ST & OBC and the posts which are likely to fall vacant by 31-12-2024. Subject wise details of posts can be seen on the Institute website. Selection will be done by an online computer based test (CBT) followed by Interview (Stage-II) of shortlisted candidates.

ONLINE REGISTRATION AND APPLICATIONS

Opens on: 04th June, 2024	Closes on: 24th June, 2024

RECRUITMENT EXAMINATION

Date of Computer based test	Duration of Examination	Examination cities
07-07-2024 (Sunday)	09.00 AM to 10.00 AM	Delhi/NCR, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai & Puducherry

The list of candidates who qualify in the Computer Based Test (CBT) & eligible for interview will be displayed on JIPMER website **www.jipmer.edu.in**. Date of interview (Stage-II) will be announced later.

Important: For prospectus, number of post, eligibility criteria, detailed information etc. please visit the website **www.jipmer.edu.in**. All applicants are required to visit the website regularly since all subsequent Corrigendum/Addendum/Updates will be uploaded in the website only.

DIRECTOR

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH, CHANDIGARH

ADMISSION NOTICE NO: 06/2024

The PGIMER, Chandigarh invites the online application for **B.Sc. Paramedical & Bachelor of Public Health (BPH)** Courses for the September-2024 session through online Computer Based Test (CBT) to be held on **02.08.2024** at different cities across the country. The application form Live dates are from **06.06.2024 to 05.07.2024**.

For eligibility criteria, number of seats and other details, applicants are advised to read the prospectus and instructions given there in carefully before starting online registration and filling of application form. The prospectus of admission is available on Institute's website i.e. www.pgimer.edu.in. The candidates are requested to visit the PGIMER website regularly for all subsequent changes/updation for entrance examination/communications/addendum/corrigendum.

PGI/RC/Advt./24/HR-000270 **REGISTRAR**

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No: A6/TBS/ADM/PUTN/03/2023e-22168 **Date: 01-06-2024.**

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-procurement portal only)

Tenders are invited under Two Bid System on Government of Karnataka e-procurement platform from eligible printers of Karnataka and Neighbouring States having Infrastructure as specified in the Tender Document to print and supply about **2.54 lakhs** of textbooks for PUC I & II Year Students located within the State of Karnataka for the year 2024-25.

Eligible printers may offer their bidding up-to **5.30 PM on 10.06.2024** Tender document is available in e-portal as well as department website. **E-procurement portal address https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/**

Portal Help line: 080-46010000 / 080-22631200

Department Website: http://www.ktbs.kar.nic.in

Sd/- Managing Director,
Karnataka Text Book Society, Bengaluru.

Tesla shareholder sues Musk for alleged $7.5 bn insider trades

Reuters

A Tesla shareholder filed a lawsuit on Thursday accusing CEO Elon Musk of insider trading when he sold over $7.5 billion of shares of the electric car maker in late 2022, saying the billionaire entrepreneur sold the shares before potentially disappointing production and delivery numbers were made public.

Shareholder Michael Perry, in the lawsuit filed in Delaware Chancery Court, said that Tesla's share price plummeted after the company's fourth-quarter numbers were made public on January 2, 2023, and claimed that Mr. Musk "improperly benefited" by about $3 billion in insider profits.

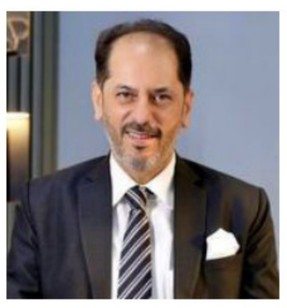
"Musk exploited his position at Tesla, and he breached his fiduciary duties to Tesla," Mr. Perry said, asking the court to direct Mr. Musk to return the profits made from the trades. According to the lawsuit, Mr. Musk sold the shares on various dates in November 2022 and December 2022.

The lawsuit also accused Tesla's directors of breaching their fiduciary duty by allowing Mr. Musk to sell the shares.

Mr. Musk did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment.

Indian CCTV makers set to gain as tough procurement norms to start from June 6

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI



Sanjeev Sehgal

With the Union government's Cybersecurity certification norms for Internet of Things] IoT products starting with CCTV cameras set to kick in from June 6, Indian video-surveillance companies are expected to see business growing at the cost of Chinese firms which are now dominating the market.

In March, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) had issued a Public Procurement Preference to advance the "Make in India" initiative. This notification specifically addresses the procurement of CCTV and video surveillance systems for security purposes, establishing clear Essential Requirements (ER) for these devices.

Security, integrity

The ERs are designed to ensure the security and integrity of the CCTV systems used by public and private sectors in India.

So far, two video surveillance equipment manufacturers from India, including Sparsh CCTV, have bagged "IoTSCS [IoT System Certification Scheme] Certification" for their IoT products (CCTV Cameras) from "Standardisation Testing & Quality Certification" body making the entire product range cybersecure.

"We are the first company globally to get this certification across all our products. India has taken the lead in setting up surveillance industry compliance in the world and we have taken lead in being 100% aligned with this compliance," said Sanjeev Sehgal, Founder & MD, Sparsh CCTV, a top Indian player, said in an interview.

Stating India has become the first country in the world to come out with norms for IoT products including CCTVs, he said, "It started off from the Western world where there was a big concern on CCTV cameras manufactured and supplied by Chinese vendors."

He said as per the new norms before anybody buys CCTVs they need to check if the products are certified or not.

"So we believe the products that come from China, because there is a trusted value chain that has been defined, most of the Chinese companies will go out of this business."

"And, we have a huge chance to get that market share. We believe starting this year, we have a great chance to scale up."

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Roman Baths may harbour novel antimicrobial natural products

The Hindu Bureau

The world-famous Roman Baths are home to a diverse range of microorganisms which could be critical in the global fight against antimicrobial resistance, a new study suggests. The investigation of extreme ecological niches, such as hot springs, has gained recent interest due to their unique ecosystems, increasing the chance for novel antimicrobial natural product discovery. The study, published in the journal *The Microbe*, is the first to provide a detailed examination of the bacterial and archaeal communities found within the waters of the popular tourist attraction in the city of Bath (U.K.).

Scientists collected samples of water, sediment and biofilm from locations within the Roman Baths complex including the King's Spring (where the waters reach around 45 degree C) and the Great Bath, where the temperatures are closer to 30 degree C. The samples were then analysed using cutting edge sequencing technology and traditional culturing techniques were employed to isolate bacteria with antibiotic activity.

Around 300 distinct types of bacteria were isolated across the Roman Baths site with different examples being more prominent within the varying water temperatures. Further tests showed 15 of these isolates – including examples of Proteobacteria and Firmicutes – showed varying levels of inhibition against human pathogens including *E.coli*, *Staphylococcus Aureus* and *Shigella flexneri*.

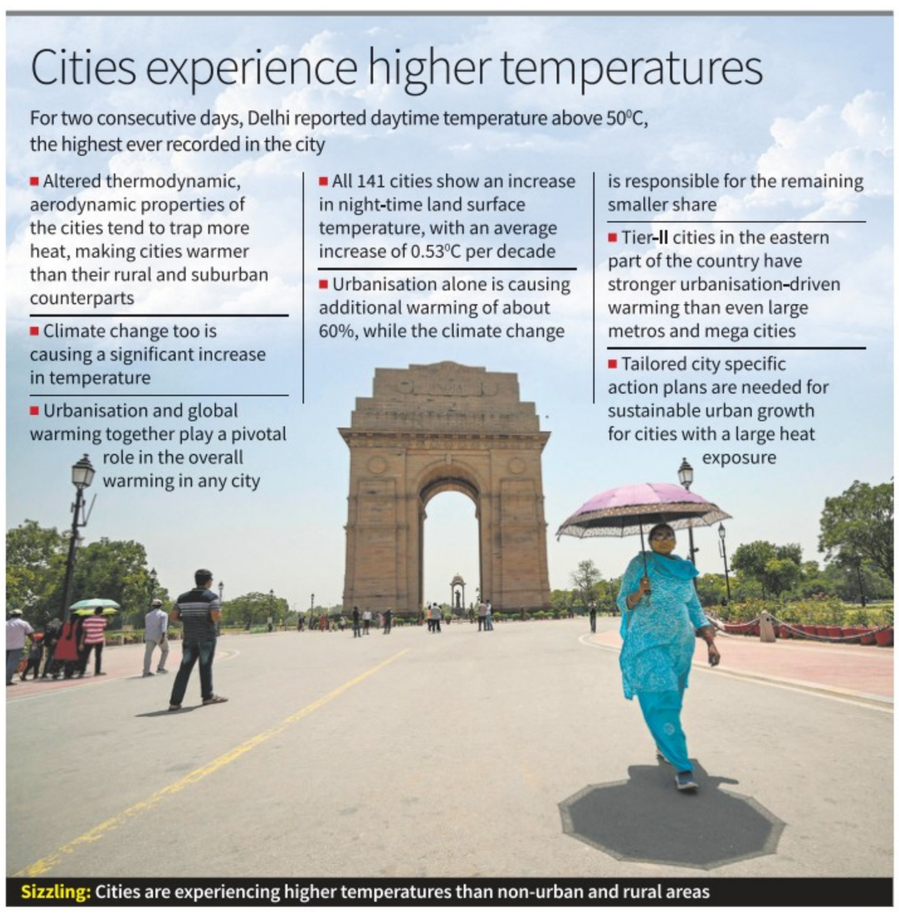
"From initial isolation experiments, 297 isolates were purified, of which 15 showed broad spectrum activity against human pathogens, though interestingly these were not from target genera in the *Actinobacteria*. From these data, there is clear potential for novel antimicrobial natural products discovery from the Roman Baths, as has been demonstrated from other thermal hot springs globally," the authors write.

The research comes at a time when the need for new sources of antibiotics is at unprecedented levels, with resistance of bacteria to currently used medication estimated to be responsible for more than 1.25 million deaths globally each year. The researchers say a significant amount of additional investigation is required before the microorganisms found in the Roman Baths can be applied in the fight against disease and infection globally. However, they add that this initial study has shown there is clear potential for novel antimicrobial natural products contained within its hot springs to be explored further for that purpose.

Cities warming due to effect of urbanisation, climate change

The rate of warming in cities is nearly twice that of the rest of the country, with local-scale urbanisation alone causing additional warming of about 60%

V. Vinoj
S.S. Sethi



Sizzling: Cities are experiencing higher temperatures than non-urban and rural areas

Recently, for two consecutive days, Delhi reported daytime temperatures above 50 degrees C, the highest ever recorded in the city. There is a reason why cities are experiencing higher temperatures than non-urban and rural areas. The ongoing climate change and rapid urbanisation are now defining the Anthropocene, with the cities experiencing both thereby making the urban population vulnerable to the compounding impact. India's urban landscape (especially population) is projected to double by 2050, adding more than 450 million residents. This rise outnumbers the present total population of the United States and the European Union, signaling a huge historical shift. Given the breakneck urbanisation, our cities must be prepared for future challenges.

The altered thermodynamic, and aerodynamic properties of the cities tend to trap more heat, making cities warmer than their rural and suburban counterparts, a phenomenon well-known as the urban heat island (UHI) effect. In addition, climate change is causing a significant increase in record-breaking temperatures and frequent prolonged heat waves. Therefore, the overall warming in any city tends to be complex with both urbanisation and global warming playing a pivotal role. This alters the resultant micro-climate of the cities with an influence on heat, rainfall distribution and even air pollution dispersion with implications for public health.

In a study published recently, we seek to separate the warming caused by local scale urbanisation and regional scale climate change in the context of 141 major cities in India and quantify their relative contributions. This kind of segregation is scientifically quite complex. One strategy is to determine the contributions of various factors to warming over time. These factors include information on concrete structures, roads, industries, parks, water bodies, residential activities, air conditioning, vehicular activities, and so on. Such detailed analysis requires enormous time, effort and investment, even for just one city and has to be incorporated into models or combined with extremely high-resolution satellite images for further analysis. A much simpler approach was followed using high-resolution night-time land surface temperature from MODIS, a sensor aboard Aqua satellite in NASA's A-train constellation. Under the assumption that the observed changes in warming (2003 to 2020) over the rural areas are driven primarily by regional climate change, the warming over the urban built-up areas for each city was compared to its rural counterpart at every one sq. km area. Thus, after the removal of regional warming signatures from the urban areas, the signal related to urbanisation was estimated for 141 major and minor cities providing first-time information on global warming-free urbanisation signatures.

Overall, the rate of warming in cities is near twice that of the rest of the country, with local-scale urbanisation alone causing additional warming of about 60%. While all cities showed an increase in night-time land surface temperature, with an average increase of 0.53 degree C per decade, a large divide among cities was seen. The tier-II cities in the eastern part of the country have stronger urbanisation-driven warming, surprisingly not seen even for the larger metros and mega cities. This may be indicating a window of opportunity.

India is aggressively acting to reduce emissions and shift to non-fossil fuel based energy sources as clearly stated in the updated nationally determined contribution (NDC) working towards climate justice. State level heat action plans and implementation of early warning and forecasting systems for heatwaves show India's commitment to saving lives by reducing heat related mortality.

Based on the predominant contribution to warming, the study emphasises that urban heat management must follow a differential approach for each city.Cities with a large urbanisation contribution may benefit from local scale interventions – use of sustainable materials like cool roofs and cool/permeable pavements, green infrastructures, creation of maintenance of lakes and parks, urban forests, and comprehensive emission reduction strategies. While other cities may require more regional scale efforts – national or regional level emission reduction, large-scale afforestation/plantation, rejuvenation of surrounding water bodies – for effective warming mitigation with both having implications for extreme urban rainfall, floods, air pollution, etc.

(*V. Vinoj is Associate Professor, School of Earth, Ocean and Climate Sciences, IIT Bhubaneswar, and S.S. Sethi is PhD scholar at the School of Earth, Ocean and Climate Sciences, IIT Bhubaneswar*)

H5N1 remains infectious on milking equipment

R. Prasad

Even as the Atlanta-based CDC has cautioned people to avoid drinking raw milk, especially in the States where H5N1 has been reported in cattle herds, there has been increased demand for raw milk. From the day H5N1 (bird flu) was confirmed in cattle in mid-March this year to mid-May, the sales of raw milk has increased 21-65% compared with the same period last year. However, no human case of H5N1 infection in people who consume raw milk has been reported so far in the U.S. despite the increase in raw milk consumption.

"The asymptomatic avian influenza surveillance programme in the U.K. has found that human infection can be very asymptomatic," says Dr. Vinod Scaria, a senior consultant at Vishwanath Cancer Care Foundation told *The Hindu*. Two people in the U.K. who had worked on an infected poultry farm in England and tested positive for H5N1 did not show any symptoms and were detected only because of the asymptomatic surveillance programme. "Testing of people, including those who consume raw milk that may be infected with H5N1 has been very low in the U.S.," says Dr. Scaria. According to the CDC, there has been "no sign of unusual influenza activity in people, including in syndromic surveillance".

On May 30, the CDC reported a third case of H5N1 infection in a farm worker in Michigan who had direct exposure to infected cows. Eight days earlier, CDC reported the second case of H5N1 infection in a farm worker in the U.S., and the first in the State of Michigan. The first human case in the U.S. was also in a farm worker in Texas. Similar to the first two cases, the latest case of H5N1 infection had eye discomfort with watery discharge. But unlike the earlier two cases, the case reported on May 30 had "more typical symptoms of acute respiratory illness associated with influenza virus infection, including A(H5N1) viruses". In the second case reported on May 22, two specimens were collected – upper respiratory tract and eye specimens. While the nasal specimen tested negative at both the State health department and the CDC, the eye specimen sent to the CDC for testing was positive for H5N1.

Caution: Influenza virus is stable in unpasteurised milk. REUTERS

The route of transmission has not been ascertained, though it is likely to be airborne.

Meanwhile, researchers from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory carried out a study to assess the risk that H5N1-containing milk poses to animals and humans and fed droplets of raw milk from infected dairy cattle to five mice. The mice showed signs of illness one day after they were fed raw milk containing the virus. The researchers found high virus titers in the respiratory organs of the mice and moderate virus titers in several other organs. Since the mice were only fed raw milk, the infection in the nasal passages, trachea and lungs, suggests that infection may have occurred through the pharynx, the researchers note in a Letter published in *The New England Journal of Medicine*. The H5N1 virus was also found in the mammary glands of two mice even though these mice were not lactating.

In another study posted as a preprint (which is yet to be peer-reviewed), researchers found H5N1 virus in unpasteurised milk remains infectious on milking equipment for over one hour. The researchers then used H1N1 as a surrogate for the H5N1 virus found in cattle to study the viral persistence in raw milk. They found the H1N1 virus in unpasteurised milk persisted for at least three hours on rubber and at least one hour on stainless steel. "These results indicate that influenza virus is very stable in unpasteurized milk and that deposited H5N1 on milking equipment could remain infectious for long periods of time," they write.

SNAPSHOTS

Why some cuckoo birds have higher rates of speciation

Cuckoos, which lay their eggs in nests of other birds, have higher speciation rates when they lay their eggs in a broader range of host bird species' nests. This higher speciation rate is driven by host rejection and cuckoo selection for mimetic nestling traits. In some species, cuckoo chicks kick the host young from the nest, whereas in others, cuckoo birds are reared alongside the host young. This variation places a high selective pressure on hosts to develop defenses and the emergence of counter adaptations in cuckoos.

A history of Zika virus raises risk of symptomatic dengue

People who have already been exposed to the Zika virus are more vulnerable to symptomatic infections with some types of dengue virus later on, according to a comprehensive study in Nicaragua during an unusual dengue outbreak in 2022. The results, which involved more than 3,400 participants, support the idea that the interplay between Zika and dengue can influence the risk of severe dengue infections in vulnerable populations – a finding with implications for the safe rollout of vaccination campaigns.

Capturing data on brain activity through skull 'window'

Researchers have engineered a custom-made skull "window" that allowed them to visualise the brain's activity with ultrasound imaging in one living volunteer outside of the operating room. The window captured useful data on brain activity as the volunteer performed tasks such as playing games and playing the guitar. The technology could offer clinicians and neuroscientists a less invasive way to study the brain with high resolution during active tasks.

Question Corner

Blood proteins

Besides the red pigment, what material was used in the red paint by people of Peru's Sicán culture?

Thirty years ago, archeologists excavated the tomb of an elite 40-50-year-old man from the Sicán culture of Peru, a society that predated the Incas. The man's seated, upside-down skeleton was painted bright red. Researchers analysed the paint and found that it contains human blood and bird egg proteins in addition to a red pigment. The study began when researchers wondered what the Sicán people had used in the paint mix as a binding material. As per a release, the researchers analysed a small sample of the mask's red paint. Using sophisticated equipment they found that the sample contained proteins, so proteomic analysis was done, which revealed six proteins from human blood in the red paint, including serum albumin and immunoglobulin G. Other proteins, such as ovalbumin, came from egg whites. Because the proteins were degraded, the researchers could not identify the exact species of bird's egg used to make the paint, but likely is the Muscovy duck.

Readers may send their questions / answers to questioncorner@thehindu.co.in

What grade of coal does India produce?

Why does it need imported coal? What is the status of the country's transition away from the fossil fuel?

Jacob Koshy

The story so far:

A recent report by the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project, a venture backed by billionaire hedge fund manager and philanthropist, George Soros, furnished new documents to allege that in 2014, the Adani Group claimed 'low grade' coal, imported from Indonesia, to be 'high-quality' coal, inflated its value and sold it to Tamil Nadu's power generation company, TANGEDCO (Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Company).

What is 'high grade' and 'low grade' coal?

High and low quality are relative terms and only meaningful in the context of where the coal is used and how they are processed. The Gross Calorific Value (GCV), or the amount of heat or energy that can be generated from burning the coal, determines the gradation of coal. Coal being a fossil fuel is a mixture of carbon, ash, moisture and a host of other impurities. The higher the available carbon in a unit of coal, the greater is its quality or 'grade.' There are 17 grades of coal by this metric from grade 1, or top quality coal, with a kilo of it yielding higher than 7,000 kcal, and the lowest producing anywhere between 2,200-2,500 kcal, as per a classification by the Coal Ministry. However, the calorific value is not a useful metric on its own. The most important uses of coal are in running thermal power plants or powering a blast furnace to produce steel and both require different kinds of coal. 'Coking' coal is the kind needed to produce coke – an essential component of steel making – and thus requires minimal ash content. Non-coking coal, despite its ash content, can be used to generate enough useful heat to run a boiler and turbine.

> There are two ways to get clean coal. Coal plants can have 'washing plants' on site to process the coal and reduce its ash and moisture content. The other method is coal gasification

What are the characteristics of Indian coal?

Indian coal has historically been evaluated as being high in ash content and low in calorific value compared to imported coal. The average GCV of domestic thermal coal ranges from 3,500-4,000 kcal/kg compared to imported thermal coals of +6,000 kcal/kg of GCV. Also the average ash content of Indian coals is more than 40% compared to imported coal which has less than 10% ash content. The consequence of this is that high-ash coal when burnt results in higher particulate matter, nitrogen and sulphur dioxide. Given this, the government, since 1954, has controlled the price of coal in a way that power companies were disincentivised to use high-grade coking coal for power generation.

Thus in the pursuit of balancing India's needs for coal production, power plants and pollution, the government has recommended the use of imported coal with lower ash and moisture content. The Central Electricity Authority (CEA) in 2012 recommended, and which still stands, that about 10-15% blending of imported coal can usually be safely used in Indian power boilers, which are designed for low quality Indian coal.

What is clean coal?

Broadly, we get clean coal when the carbon content has been increased by reducing its ash content. Coal plants have 'washing plants' on site which can process the coal in ways that reduce ash and moisture content. They employ huge blowers or a 'bath' to remove fine, coarse ash. However, deploying such equipment is expensive and adds to the cost of power. The other method to clean coal – again requiring significant investment – is coal gasification. Here, the need to directly burn coal is bypassed by converting it into gas. By relying on an integrated gasification combined cycle (IGCC) system, steam and hot pressurised air or oxygen combine with coal in a reaction that forces carbon molecules apart. The resulting syngas, a mixture of carbon monoxide, hydrogen, CO2 and water vapour, is then cleaned and burned in a gas turbine to make electricity. Since IGCC power plants create two forms of energy (steam from the gasification process apart from syngas as fuel), they increase efficiency of the coal used.

What is the future of coal in India?

Official data says that India in 2023-24 produced 997 million tonnes of coal, an 11% growth over the previous year. Most of this was produced by the state-owned Coal India Ltd and its subsidiaries.

As of March 2024, India produced 261 tonnes of coal, of which 58 million tonnes was coking coal. Despite stated commitments to transition India's electricity sector away from fossil fuel, coal is the mainstay of India's energy economy. Change, however, is in the air as for the first time this year, renewable energy accounted for 71.5% of the record 13.6 GW power generation capacity added by India in the first quarter of this year, while coal's share (including lignite) of total power capacity dropped below 50% for the first time since the 1960s.

Is a future Palestine state possible?

What are the hurdles to a two-state solution? With Palestinian territories under Israeli occupation since 1967, how will a Jewish and Arab state be demarcated? Why does Israel want to hold on to the status quo of occupation? Will war lead to peace in the region or is it a far-fetched idea?

Stanly Johny

The story so far:

Hamas's October 7, 2023 attack in Israel and the latter's continuing war on Gaza have brought the Palestine question back to the fore of West Asia. As the war has destroyed much of Gaza and killed 36,000 of its people, the world has also seen more countries voicing strong support for a future Palestine state. Recently, three European countries, Spain, Ireland and Norway, recognised the Palestine state. Arab countries, including Saudi Arabia and Jordan, say there wouldn't be lasting peace in the region unless the Palestine question is resolved. An internationally recognised solution to the crisis is what's called the two-state solution.

What's the two-state solution?

The short answer is simple: divide historical Palestine, the land between the Jordan River on the east and the Mediterranean Sea in the west, into an Arab state and a Jewish state. But the long answer is complicated. Israel, a Jewish state, was created in Palestine in 1948. But a Palestine state is not yet a reality. Palestinian territories have been under Israeli occupation since 1967. So, a two-state solution today means the creation of a legitimate, sovereign Palestine state, which enjoys the full rights like any other nation state under the UN Charter.

What are the origins?

The roots of the two-state solution go back to the 1930s when the British ruled over Palestine. In 1936, the British government appointed a commission headed by Lord William Robert Peel (known as the Peel Commission) to investigate the causes of Arab-Jewish clashes in Palestine. A year later, the commission proposed a partition of Palestine into a Jewish and an Arab state. At that time, Jews accounted for some 28% of Palestine's population. According to the Peel Commission proposal, the West Bank, Gaza and Negev desert would make up the Arab state, while much of Palestine's coast and the fertile Galilee region would be part of the Jewish state. Arabs rejected the proposal.

> There are several structural factors that make the two-state solution complicated

No peace in sight: Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat at the signing of the Oslo accords in Washington, in 1993. AP

After the Second World War, the UN Special Commission on Palestine (UNSCOP) put forward another partition plan. It proposed that Palestine be divided into three territories – a Jewish state, an Arab state and an international territory (Jerusalem). Jews, who made up roughly 32% of Palestine's population, were to have 56% of the Palestine land as per the UNSCOP plan. The partition plan was adopted in the UN General Assembly (Resolution 181). Arabs rejected the plan (India voted against it), while the Zionist leadership of Israeli settlers in Palestine accepted it. And on May 14, 1948. Zionists unilaterally declared the state of Israel. This triggered the first Arab-Israeli war. And by the time an armistice agreement was achieved in 1949, Israel had captured some 22% more territories than what the UN had proposed.

How did it get international legitimacy?

In the 1967 Six-Day War, Israel captured the West Bank and East Jerusalem from Jordan, the Gaza Strip and the Sinai Peninsula from Egypt and the Golan Heights from Syria (Israel continues to control all territories except the Sinai which it returned to Egypt after the 1978 Camp David Accords). Palestine nationalism emerged stronger in the 1960s, under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

The PLO initially demanded the "liberation" of the whole of Palestine, but later recognised the two-state solution based on the 1967 border. Israel initially rejected any Palestinian claim to the land and continued to term the PLO as a "terrorist" organisation. But in the Camp David Accords, which followed the 1973 Yom Kippur War in which Egypt and Syria surprised Israel with an attack, it agreed to the Framework for Peace in the Middle East agreement. As part of the Framework, Israel agreed to establish an autonomous self-governing Palestinian authority in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and implement the UN Resolution 242, which has demanded Israel pull back from all the territories it captured in 1967. The Framework laid the foundation for the Oslo Accords, which, signed in 1993 and 1995, formalised the two-state solution. As part of the Oslo process, a Palestinian National Authority, a self-governing body, was formed in the West Bank and Gaza and the PLO was internationally recognised as a representative body of the Palestinians. The promise of Oslo was the creation of a sovereign Palestinian state which would live next to the Israeli state in peace. However, this promise has never been materialised.

What are the hurdles to achieving the two-state solution?

The first setback for the Oslo process was the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister who signed the accords, in November 1995 by a Jewish extremist. Rabin's Labour party was defeated in the subsequent elections and the right-wing Likud, under Benjamin Netanyahu's leadership, came to power. The rise of Hamas, the Islamist militant group that opposed the Oslo Accords saying the PLO made huge concessions to the Israelis, also contributed to the derailment of the peace process. After the collapse of the Oslo process in the 1990s, there were multiple diplomatic efforts to revive the two-state plan, but none of these made progress towards achieving the goal.

Multiple reasons could be identified for this failure. But there are specific structural factors that make the two-state solution unachievable, at least for now. One is the boundary. Israel doesn't have a clearly demarcated border. It is essentially an expansionist state. In 1948, it captured more territories than it was promised by the UN. In 1967, it expanded further by taking the whole of historical Palestine under its control. From the 1970s, Israel has been building illegal Jewish settlements in Palestinian territories. While Palestinians say their future state should be based on the 1967 border, Israel is not willing to make any commitments.

Two, the status of settlers. Roughly 7,00,000 Jewish settlers are now living in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. If Israel is to withdraw to the 1967 border, they will have to pull back the settlers. The settlers are now a powerful political class in Israeli society and no Prime Minister can pull them back without facing political consequences. Three, the status of Jerusalem. Palestinians say East Jerusalem, which hosts Al Aqsa, Islam's third holiest mosque, should be the capital of their future Palestinian state, while Israel says the whole of Jerusalem, which hosts the Western Wall, the holiest place in Judaism, is Israel's "eternal capital". Four, the right of refugees to return to their homes. Some 7,00,000 Palestinians were displaced from their homes in 1948 when the state of Israel was declared. According to international law, they have a right to return to their homes. Israel says it won't allow the Palestinian refugees to return.

While these are the structural factors that make the two-state solution complicated, on the ground, Israel's rightwing leadership shows no willingness to make any concessions. Israel wants to continue the status quo – the status quo of occupation. The Palestinians want to break that status quo.

Why is there a fresh row on Mullaperiyar?

What are the stated positions of Kerala and Tamil Nadu on the dam in Idukki district? Why is Kerala seeking fresh terms of reference? How has Tamil Nadu responded? Which State uses the water from the dam? How old is the construction?

K.S. Sudhi

The story so far:

The Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF) cancelled its May 28 meeting, which was supposed to consider Kerala's request for a new Terms of Reference (ToR) for conducting an Environment Impact Assessment for a new dam at Mullaperiyar in Idukki district. The meeting was cancelled at the eleventh hour without assigning any reasons. The top officials of the Irrigation Design and Research Board of Kerala, who reached New Delhi for the meeting, were informed that the meeting had been deferred.

Why was the meeting called?

Any development related to the masonry gravity dam at Mullaperiyar, which is located in the Idukki district of Kerala and owned and operated by the neighbouring State of Tamil Nadu, is keenly contested by both States at all legal and governmental levels. The Kerala Government's latest move to get a new ToR as part of the groundwork for constructing a new dam in place of the 128-year-old structure too invited a sharp response from Tamil Nadu.

Kerala decided to move the EAC for a new ToR for the new dam as the earlier one issued on November 14, 2018, with a lifespan of five years, had expired last year. The State needed a new ToR for preparing the EIA to estimate the possible environmental impacts of the construction of a new dam.

> Kerala and Tamil Nadu have been engaged in a pitched legal battle over the dam since 1996

New flows: The Mullaperiyar dam at Thekkady in Kerala, in 2022. FILE PHOTO

What is Tamil Nadu's objection?

Kerala's move irked Tamil Nadu, which depends on the water released from the dam to irrigate its arid Theni, Madurai, Sivaganga and Ramanathapuram districts. Chief Minister M. K. Stalin shot off a letter to Bhupender Yadav, the Union Minister of the MoEF, seeking to issue directions to the officials of the Ministry and the Member Secretary of the EAC to drop the agenda of ToR from the meeting.

Tamil Nadu objected to the EAC agenda by arguing that the decision to consider Kerala's proposal amounted to a violation of an earlier order of the Supreme Court. Mr. Stalin stuck to the consistent position of Tamil Nadu that the existing dam was repeatedly found to be safe by various expert committees and the top court had passed orders to this effect on two occasions. Tamil Nadu went on to argue that the Supreme Court had specified in 2018 that its permission was required for any such studies. It also concluded that Kerala's decision to take up an EIA study for a new dam and the decision of the EAC to consider the request for permission would amount to contempt of the Supreme Court. The State government also dropped hints that it would initiate legal action, including filing contempt of court petitions if the orders of the top court were not adhered to on the issue.

What is Kerala's position?

The State argues that Kerala needs an extensive EIA considering the changed environmental scenario, especially the back-to-back floods in 2018 and 2019 as part of its preparatory works. A new data set covering various environmental aspects was needed, it argues. A new ToR and EIA are the prerequisites for such an exercise, according to Kerala officials.

The Kerala government, which has almost finalised the design of the new dam, refuses to buy the contentions of Tamil Nadu and argues that the apex court had earlier dismissed the Interlocutory Application (IA) of Tamil Nadu objecting to the earlier ToR for an EIA and the clearance issued by the National Board for Wild Life (NBWL) for conducting the EIA. Kerala officials argued that Tamil Nadu was misleading the Union government regarding the Supreme Court order on ToR. The IA filed by Tamil Nadu in 2015 requesting to issue directions to restrain Kerala from conducting EIA studies and withdrawing the NBWL order was dismissed by the Supreme Court as infructuous in an order issued on April 13, 2016, Kerala argues.

Why does it want new terms of reference?

According to Kerala officials, Kerala needs extensive data to prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR) as part of its efforts to build a new dam and to engage Tamil Nadu in a discussion regarding the new dam. Kerala decided to seek a new ToR since changes were introduced in the dam design. The earlier design and the DPR prepared in 2011 had undergone major changes, they argue. The earlier estimated cost of the dam was around ₹800 crore, which in any case, would go up. An EIA is required as the proposed site of the dam is situated in Periyar Tiger Reserve, a notified Protected Area, where prior environmental clearances have to be obtained. The Periyar Tiger Reserve is both a tiger and elephant reserve, and the clearance of the NBWL is also required. Since the forest land has to be used for constructing the new dam, which is a non-forestry activity, and the felling of trees is required, the permission of the Union Ministry as well as the apex court has to be obtained. The EIA of such activities will have to be documented while approaching various agencies for statutory clearance, they argue.

Is there a scope for consensus?

Kerala and Tamil Nadu have been engaged in a pitched legal battle since 1996. While the first phase of the legal contentions between the two States veered around the safety aspects of the existing dam, the second phase, which began in 1998 saw several Public Interest Litigations and writ petitions filed by both States challenging the legal validity of various acts of both the States. More legal battles may come up before the top court with this move of the Kerala government.

Kerala, which has been preparing the ground for a new dam, would require the consent of Tamil Nadu to construct a new dam as directed by the top court in one of its orders in 2014.

PROFILES

Bringing the Left to the centre

Keir Starmer

The man who could be the next British Prime Minister has toned down many of his early leftist promises and has brought the Labour party to the centre, focusing on economic stability, workers rights and climate justice

Joan Sony Cherian

"I changed Labour. I will fight for you and change Britain," Keir Starmer, chief of the Labour party, wrote on X on May 28, as part of his campaign for the U.K. elections, scheduled to be held on July 4.

Whether Mr. Starmer will fulfil the promise remains to be seen. However, the Opposition leader has certainly changed the identity of Labour from former leader Jeremy Corbyn's time. Mr. Starmer, who became an MP in 2015, ran for leadership of Labour in 2020 after Mr. Corbyn, a leftist, resigned following the party's defeat in the 2019 election. Mr. Starmer stood for the leadership race with an agenda of 10 key pledges, which he stated was 'based on the moral case for socialism'. Some of the key pledges include an increase of income tax for 5% of top earners, restricting the U.K.'s arms sales, nationalising the rail, mail, energy and water sectors, a new Green Deal, strengthening workers rights, etc. But since his election as party leader, Mr. Starmer has abandoned most of these promises.

Mr. Starmer's recurring defence has been that Brexit, the COVID pandemic, the Russia-Ukraine war and the disastrous policies of the Tory government had completely destroyed the nation's economic progress. What is of utmost priority, at the present moment, is economic and financial stability. This is reflected in Labour's election manifesto as well.

In the manifesto, Labour pledges to nationalise just the railways. It also walked back on the promise of raising taxes of the top rich as it's a 'different situation' now that the U.K. has its highest tax burden since the Second World War. Mr. Starmer has also put on hold a €28 billion climate investment promise which he made in 2022.

Additionally, he has been accused of carrying out a systemic phasing out of the more left-wing candidates of the party. This internal divide has come out in full force recently as decisions are being taken about the candidates to be fielded by the party for the coming election. A couple of incumbent leftwing MPs have been banned from standing for elections. Diane Abbott, the first Black woman MP in the U.K. said Labour was carrying out a "cull of leftwingers".

Another common link being drawn between the banned MPs has been their call for a permanent and immediate ceasefire in Israel's war on Gaza. Mr. Starmer has, contrarily, thrown his weight behind Israel, upholding its "right to defend itself". At one point, when asked whether cutting off water and power supplies into Gaza would be an appropriate response, he replied: "I think that Israel does have that right". It is only recently, after Israel's Rafah onslaught began, that Mr. Starmer called for a ceasefire 'that lasts'.

Some say the shift from the initial pledges to status quo has been an act of betrayal by Mr. Starmer, a tool used to gain votes from both sides of the party for leadership. Others say it's part of his pragmatic and solution-oriented outlook on politics.

Idealist to realist

Mr. Starmer was born into a working class family in 1962. He has repeatedly drawn attention to this fact to emphasise his commitment to the working people and trade unions. He grew up in poverty, being one among four siblings with an ailing mother. His father used to work as a toolmaker in his village in Surrey. Following his schooling, Mr. Starmer went on to study law, and became the first person in his family to graduate college.

Mr. Starmer's record as a human rights lawyer had earned him a good deal of ire from both the progressive and conservative factions of society before he had even entered politics.

The Opposition leader has always centred human rights in his practice. In his early days, he would travel across Caribbean countries defending convicts against the death penalty, a punishment he says "horrifies him". He was also involved in the famous *Mclibel* case wherein he defended two environmentalists who were taken to court by McDonald's on charges of libel for stating that the company was damaging the environment.

He was deeply committed to bringing out large-scale change, often feeling frustrated at the lack of systemic changes through individual cases.

ILLUSTRATION: R.RAJESH

His shift towards a 'realist' started in 2003, when he was appointed the human rights adviser to the Policing Board in Northern Ireland. From 2008 to 2013, he had been the Director of Public Prosecutions and Head of the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS). He would later reflect on his time in these institutions as key to his political approach.

"I came better to understand how you can change by being inside and getting the trust of people", he said.

As Director of the CPS, Mr. Starmer tried to stay true to his human rights-based approach. For example, certain high profile sexual abuse cases led him to change the CPS's guidelines on sexual assault cases wherein prosecutors were asked to start from a position of believing the victim. He also brought to book several MPs over false accounting charges. However, he was decried for his disproportionate response towards student protestors in 2010 wherein he advocated for rapid sentencing. He has also faced public scrutiny for refusing to prosecute police officers in cases such as that of Jean Charles de Menendez, a Brazilian immigrant who was killed by police who mistook him for a terror suspect, and Ian Tomlinson, who was killed by policemen during a protest against the 2009 G-20 summit.

However, as Director of the CPS, his role in the Julian Assange extradition trial must be one of his least known cases. Mr. Assange, the founder of WikiLeaks, is now detained in the high-security Belmarsh prison in London and is involved in a prolonged legal battle against his extradition to the U.S. Mr. Starmer had tried to fast-track Mr. Assange's extradition to the U.S – he took various trips to the U.S. with respect to the case, and persuaded the Swedish authorities to keep their case of extradition open.

A 'New Deal'

Some experts state that Mr. Starmer has no ideology. Some others have compared him to Tony Blair because of his apathy towards ideology and his drive to revamp the Labour party, especially after the Corbyn years.

However, unlike Tony Blair, Mr. Starmer has called for the party to take up the cause of the workers and the trade unions, upheld nationalisation of public industries and talked about putting more money into businesses. He is fully committed to Labour's "New Deal for Working People", which calls for expanding collective bargaining and granting workers' basic rights, such as sick pay, parental leave and protection against unfair dismissal. He does not support giving markets a free rein but believes in shaping the market for economic growth through policy. He also believes in climate justice and setting up of green industries. Thus, with all opinion polls and trends predicting a win for Labour, Mr. Starmer has firmly placed the party in a centrist position. His vision has been coined by some as Starmerism, wherein economic stability, workers rights and climate justice hold precedence.

However, with a stagnant economy, a health system in shambles, collapsing public services, and high national debt, it is to be seen whether Starmerism can hold ground.

THE GIST

- Keir Starmer rose to the leadership of British Labour, after leftist Jeremy Corbyn resigned, with 10 key pledges, which he stated was 'based on the moral case for socialism'
- Since his election as party leader, Starmer has abandoned most of these promises, but he says he remains committed to the cause of workers and upholds nationalisation of public industries
- Starmer says his immediate focus is on economic stability and that he doesn't support giving markets a free rein but believes in shaping the market for economic growth through policy

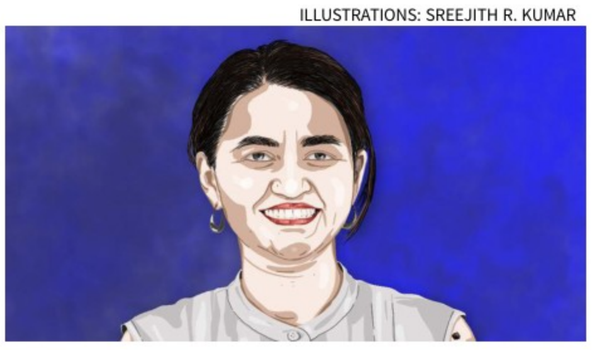
Living with nostalgia

Payal Kapadia

The filmmaker whose *All We Imagine as Light* won the Grand Prix at Cannes says she doesn't shy away from politics and keeps the slogan 'personal is political' alive in her movies

Vighnesh P. Venkitesh

ILLUSTRATIONS: SREEJITH R. KUMAR



Payal Kapadia, the 38-year-old whose movie *All We Imagine as Light* won the Grand Prix – the second most prestigious award at Cannes – sees herself as a melancholic person, and this melancholy sets the tone for her movies.

Ms. Kapadia, hailing from Mumbai but having spent more time outside the city, says she got a sense of flux every time she visited the place. *All We Imagine as Light* is about Mumbai and the people who go to work there – people who are in a perpetual state of flux. Ms. Kapadia started working on the movie with a short film in her mind, but as she delved in to this flux, made up of different layers of relationships, *All We Imagine as Light* was born.

Ms. Kapadia, an alumna of the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), was very much part of the student protests that echoed across Indian universities in recent years and found herself living in an uncertain present.

Her first feature film, *A Night of Knowing Nothing*, embodies the personal vulnerabilities and uncertainties young Indian adults went through during this time. The roots of *A Night of Knowing Nothing* lie in the protests she were part of at her institute against the appointment of TV actor Gajendra Chauhan as its chairperson. The 139-day-long protests in 2015 saw Ms. Kapadia and her cinematographer Ranabir Das recording the incidents happening around them.

Ms. Kapadia says she and her team did not have a clear agenda on what their film was supposed to be going into production. She describes the movie as a found-footage film.

"If we look at films being made in our country, you will always find someone in the crew who went to a public institute," Ms. Kapadia told *The Hindu*. "As I was part of the strike in 2015, the student protests became very important for me in order to protect public institutes... designed to give everyone equal opportunity; *A Night of Knowing Nothing* was a homage to these spaces."

Ms. Kapadia highlights a feeling of nostalgia that was part of her movies. Not the nostalgia for the past as it was often understood, but "a nostalgia for the present". And this nostalgia for the present is visible not just in her feature films but also in her short films such as *And What Is the Summer Saying* and *Afternoon Clouds*.

Melancholy and joy

"Perhaps I am a very melancholic person", Ms. Kapadia said. "In *A Night of Knowing Nothing*, the nostalgia was for the present, when the students were standing up for themselves," she said. But there's joy within the melancholy. "In the new film, too, I could not escape from melancholy, but there is also joy."

Ms. Kapadia has said there is no shying away from politics and she keeps the feminist slogan 'personal is political' alive in her movies, while managing to combine it with aesthetics. But she draws a distinction between political films and propaganda films.

"Every film has its politics, the politics between the rich and the poor, the politics of the relationship between men and women, etc... it may or may not be the intention of the filmmaker, but it will show up. Propaganda films are not as naive. They know clearly what they are doing and they manipulate the truth to put forth an argument whose intention is to change the perspective of the viewer toward a certain political discourse. For me, the difference lies in the intention of the filmmaker, " Ms. Kapadia said.

She also manages to bring in the element of love to the fore. In *And What is the Summer Saying*, the narrator describes how his father taught him about bees, which are lonely creatures and die once they mate, which was their only purpose. Later, the narrator describes how he found his father beginning to think more like bees, who must die when in love.

Still basking in the glory and glitter of Cannes, Ms. Kapadia has shown the way forward for the Indian movie industry, which had to wait for 30 years for a competitive representation at Cannes. And, while she says she has not figured out what is next, Ms. Kapadia still has a long way to go. She hopes 'things will be bit easier' for her from now on.

The Beijing loyalist

John Lee Ka-chiu

Hong Kong's Chief Executive believes the controversial National Security Law has 'restored peace' and was necessary to guard against 'undercurrents that try to create troubles' in the city

Saumya Kalia

Diplomacy for a semi-autonomous city is tricky business. Do you woo investors, dispel democratic anxieties, or crack down on dissent? If you are John Lee Ka-chiu, you do it all, and you do it without mincing words. Last year, during the "Hello Hong Kong" campaign, the city's Chief Executive was seen gesturing his arms open, welcoming foreign visitors to a "world city like no other". On the sidelines, he doggedly pursued "street rats". Mr. Lee issued a bounty of HK$1 million against eight pro-democracy activists living abroad. They were wanted under the Beijing-imposed national security law.

The eight Mr. Lee referred to are part of the 'Hong Kong 47'– the 47 activists, academics, and politicians jailed or forced into exile since 2021. On May 30, a Hong Kong court found 14 activists guilty of attempting to "paralyse Hong Kong's government" and to "topple the city's leader". The landmark prosecution is carried out under Mr. Lee's leadership that began in 2022.

Hong Kong's fifth Chief Executive has had humble beginnings. He was born into a middle-class family in Guangzhou and grew up in public housing, experiencing "first-hand hardships faced by the grassroots community", Mr. Lee said in a campaign speech.

He attended the prestigious Wah Yan College run by Jesuit priests. His classmates and teachers described him as "obedient" and "result-oriented", one who kept a low profile, according to a *South China Morning Post* report. In 1977, when Hong Kong was still a British colony, Mr. Lee, then 20 years, joined the police force. He was "known as an anglophile during the colonial rule", Reuters reported earlier.

A policing background separates Mr. Lee from his predecessors, who rose from civil service or had ties to the business community. The 66-year-old spent more than four decades tackling security challenges. He started as a probationary inspector; moving up the ranks to become a deputy commissioner in 2010, a secretary for security in 2017, and by 2021, he was chosen the chief secretary for administration – the second most powerful job in Hong Kong.

Mr. Lee's "sense of justice" began when he was robbed as a school student, which to him was a lesson in being a law-abiding citizen, according to the *Global Times*. The learning stuck.

When pro-democracy activists protested the controversial (and now withdrawn) extradition Bill in 2019, Mr. Lee defended his former police colleagues, who fired tear gas canisters, water cannons and rubber bullets at protesters. The protesters were "radicals" sowing "terror", stopped only by the "courageous" police force, he said.

Rewriting rule of law

The Basic Law, the city's mini constitution, guarantees civil liberties, free speech, and independent judiciary in the former British Colony. The National Security Law rewrites the rule of law, and gives the government more power to crush dissent, critics fear. The U.S. has placed Mr. Lee on a sanctions list for undermining Hong Kong's autonomy.

In 2022, Mr. Lee was the unopposed choice to be Hong Kong's Chief Executive, handpicked by an election committee comprising Beijing loyalists. The appointment was a "reward for loyalty", said Joseph Cheng, a retired Hong Kong academic.

Hong Kong's Chief Executives traditionally juggle opposing forces – balancing Hong Kong's desire for autonomy alongside China's vision for the city. Mr. Lee's governance bends towards the latter; national security would take priority "above all else", he had said. Mr. Lee's 2022 manifesto vowed to bolster security legislation, introduce a "national identity" education and enact a "fake news" law. The National Security Law has "restored peace" and was necessary to guard against "undercurrents that try to create troubles", he said.

This tough line earned him praise from the higher-ups. Last December, China's President Xi Jinping said Mr. Lee's work has "consolidated the general trend turning Hong Kong from chaos to order", and that Hong Kong "now sits on a path to prosperity".

ROME

Italy warns against 'rash' moves of using Western arms in Russia

GETTY IMAGES

Italy's Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani repeated his opposition on Saturday to Ukraine using Italian weapons inside Russia, saying "rash" moves must be avoided. Support is growing among NATO allies for allowing Ukraine to use Western-donated weapons to strike inside Russian territory — but Rome remains opposed. AFP

DUBAI

U.S.-sanctioned ex-officer among Iranian candidates to replace Raisi

AP

U.S.-sanctioned ex-IRGC commander Vahid Haghanian is among the candidates who registered to become Iran's next President following the death of Ebrahim Raisi. He was sanctioned in 2019 among nine individuals in Khamenei's "inner circle responsible for advancing...domestic and foreign oppression". REUTERS

ISLAMABAD

New air cargo route inaugurated between China and Pakistan

REUTERS

A new air cargo route has been launched between Pakistan and China to further enhance trade ties between the two all-weather allies, ahead of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit to Beijing next week. The new air cargo route inaugurated on May 28 linked Guizhou, China with Karachi, Pakistan. PTI

CAPE CANAVERAL

Boeing Starliner launch scrubbed in final minutes of countdown

AFP

The first crewed flight of Boeing's Starliner spaceship was called off on Saturday with just under four minutes left for launch, for reasons that are not yet clear. It was the second time the test mission to the International Space Station was scrubbed in a programme which has already faced years of delays and safety scares. AFP

ANC searching for coalition partners in South Africa after losing majority

President Cyril Ramaphosa's party witnessed a catastrophic slump from 57.5% votes in 2019 to 40% after 99% of votes were counted; former President Jacob Zuma's MK party surpasses expectations by winning 12.6%, denting the ANC's prospects

Agence France-Presse
JOHANNESBURG

South Africa's ruling ANC faced a search for allies to help it form a new government on Saturday after it lost its three-decade-old absolute majority in a watershed election.

With 99% of the votes from Wednesday's election counted, President Cyril Ramaphosa's African National Congress had only 40%, a catastrophic slump from the 57.5% it won in 2019.

Close watch: Representatives of the African National Congress party follow live voting results in Midrand on Friday. AFP

Turning point

This marks a historic turning point for South Africa as the party has enjoyed an absolute majority since 1994, when liberation leader Nelson Mandela led the nation out of white-minority rule and into democracy.

The ANC must now either negotiate a coalition government, or at least persuade other parties to back Mr. Ramaphosa's re-election in parliament to allow him to form a minority government reliant on other parties for support to pass budgets and legislation.

"We have been talking with everybody even before the election," ANC's deputy secretary general Nomvula Mokonyane said.

"It's about ensuring that the stability both in government and stability in our country."

Ramaphosa's future

She would not be drawn on whether the party might replace Mr. Ramaphosa after the party's record poor showing, saying: "For now, it's not an issue."

As votes continued to be validated, data from the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) showed the centre-right Democratic Alliance (DA) held second place with 21.71%, slightly up on its 20.77% showing in 2019.

The party, which governs Western Cape province and has promised a free market agenda at odds with the ANC's left-wing traditions.

But it was not a surge by the DA that cut into the ANC's vote share.

In third place was former President Jacob Zuma's uMkhonto weSizwe (MK) on 12.6%, a surprise score for a party founded just months ago as a vehicle for the former ANC chief.

The radical leftist Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) was in fourth with 9.4%.

'War with China neither imminent nor unavoidable'

Associated Press
SINGAPORE

United States Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin told a gathering of top security officials on Saturday that war with China was neither imminent nor unavoidable, despite rapidly escalating tensions in the Asia-Pacific region, stressing the importance of renewed dialogue between him and his Chinese counterpart in avoiding "miscalculations and misunderstandings."

Mr. Austin's comments at the Shangri-La defence forum in Singapore came the day after he met for more than an hour on the sidelines with Chinese Defence Minister Dong Jun, the first in-person meeting between the top defence officials since contacts between the American and Chinese militaries broke down in 2022 after then-U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited Taiwan, infuriating Beijing.

Lloyd Austin

Neither side budged from their longstanding positions on Taiwan – which China claims as its own and has not ruled out using force to take – and on China's sweeping claims in the South China Sea, which has led to direct confrontations between China and other nations in the region, most notably the Philippines.

While declining to detail the specifics of their conversation, Mr. Austin said the most important thing was that the two were again talking.

Addressing the same forum on Friday night, Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. bluntly outlined what could be at stake, saying that if a Filipino were killed as China confronts his country's coast guard and merchant fleet to press its claims in the South China Sea, it would be "very, very close to what we define as an act of war and therefore we will respond accordingly."

Mr. Marcos added that he assumed the Philippines' treaty partners, which include the U.S., "hold the same standard."

Trump campaign says it raised $53 mn after conviction

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

Donald Trump's campaign said on Friday it had raised nearly $53 million in online small-dollar donations after he was convicted in his New York hush money trial, boasting that the verdict had galvanised his support "like never before."

The record haul was equivalent to more than $2 million raised per hour, it said.

Senior campaign aides Chris LaCivita and Susie Wiles said in statements that more than a third of the total came from new donors to the campaign and hailed an "outpouring of support from patriots across our country."

Calling the Thursday court decision a "sham trial verdict" the advisors reported that the "digital fundraising system was overwhelmed with support" despite temporary online delays "because of the amount of traffic" from small-dollar donors.

Donald Trump

As of Friday evening, the day's total had climbed to a whopping $52.8 million.

A jury convicted Mr. Trump on Thursday on all 34 charges of falsifying business records to cover up a sex scandal in the final stages of the 2016 presidential campaign.

Israel pounds Gaza after Biden outlines ceasefire strategy

Agence France-Presse
RAFAH

Benjamin Netanyahu refused to budge from his demands which include the destruction of Hamas

Israeli forces hammered Rafah in southern Gaza with tanks and artillery on Saturday, hours after U.S. President Joe Biden said Israel was offering a new roadmap towards a full ceasefire.

Shortly after Mr. Biden's announcement, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu insisted his country would still pursue the war until it had reached all its aims.

Hamas 'positive'

Mr. Netanyahu reiterated that position on Saturday, saying that "Israel's conditions for ending the war have not changed: the destruction of Hamas's military and governing capabilities, the freeing of all hostages and ensuring that Gaza no longer poses a threat to Israel".

Hamas, meanwhile, said it "views positively" the Israeli plan laid out by Mr. Biden.

The U.S. President said Israel's three-stage offer would begin with a six-week phase that would see Israeli forces withdraw from all populated areas of Gaza. It would also see the "release of a number of hostages... in exchange for (the) release of hundreds of Palestinian prisoners".

Israel and the Palestinians would then negotiate for a lasting ceasefire – but the truce would continue so long as talks are ongoing, Mr. Biden said.

Russia fires 100 missiles, drones overnight, targets energy infrastructure across Ukraine

Agence France-Presse
KYIV

Russia fired a combined 100 missiles and drones at Ukraine overnight in a barrage that targeted energy sites across the country, Ukrainian officials said on Saturday.

Russia has launched dozens of aerial attacks at Ukraine's power facilities throughout the war, causing significant damage and energy shortages as Ukraine's stretched air defences struggle to repel the waves of drones and missiles.

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy attends the 21st Shangri-La Dialogue summit in Singapore on Saturday. AP

"The enemy launched 53 missiles of various types and 47 attack drones," the air force said, adding that it shot down 35 of the missiles and all but one of the drones.

Two thermal power plants were damaged in the attack, the DTEK operator said, without specifying where they were located.

Power plants struck

"It was another extremely difficult night for the Ukrainian energy sector. The enemy struck two of our thermal power plants. The equipment was seriously damaged," the company said.

It was the sixth major attack on DTEK thermal power plants since mid-March, it added.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Members of the public are hereby put on notice that our client has entered into a regd. Agreement for Sale dt.21-04-2023 for purchase of Schedule described Property with (1) Sri **B.S. Gnanaprakash**, s/o late A.B. Siddagangiah, r/a No.78, 4th Cross, Teachers' Colony, Kumaraswamy Layout, Bengaluru-560 078 and (2) **Smt. Suma K @ Sumangala**, aged 34 years, (3) **Chi. Nikhil Tej S**. 8 yrs, and (4) **Chi. Ranvit S**., 6 yrs, Nos.3 and 4 above being minors represented by No.2 above as mother/natural guardian and above Sellers having committed breach of regd. Agreement, our client has filed O.S.No.25130/2024 in Bengaluru City Civil Court and an order of temporary injunction restraining them from alienating schedule property has been granted by Hon'ble Court. The above stated Sellers No.2 to 4 have also filed a declaratory suit O.S.No.25129/2024 against Seller No.1 and M/s Axis Finance Ltd., Bengaluru in respect of 50% share in Schedule Property which are pending disposal. In the meanwhile, M/s Axis Finance Ltd. have initiated proceedings under SARFAESI ACT, 2002 against Seller No.1 stated above in respect of Schedule Property and as disclosed by all relevant documents, it is manifestly clear that it has no vested right, title or interest in 50% of Schedule Property and the matter is under lis, involving various legal complications including minors' rights. Our client is in physical possession of major portion of Schedule Property in part performance of regd. Agreement. Axis Finance Ltd. having issued a notice inviting intending general public to purchase the Schedule property, this caution notice is being issued on behalf of our client.

Be it known to and noticed by all those intending to purchase Schedule property from Axis Finance Ltd. that it has no marketable title in the same, title is under challenge in above proceedings, the same is sub-judis and subject to rights of our client and all deals in respect of Schedule Property would be at his / her own risk and peril.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

The immovable property bearing BDA Site No.2017 forming part of Railway Line Pipe Line Extension, then known as Vijayanagar 2nd Stage and present Municipal No.8 and 8/1, 12th 'A' Cross, 1st 'B' Main Road, Vijayanagar 2nd Stage, (P.I.D.No.34-60-8 and 8/1) Bengaluru-560 040, the land area admeasuring 1550 sq. ft. and bounded as follows viz on or towards: East: BDA Site No.2018 (Municipal No.9) West: Formerly private layout and present Municipal No.7 North: Road (now Ist 'B' Main Road) South: BDA Site No.2016 consisting of built area in Ground Floor and First Floor to a total extent of 2400 Sq. Ft. with all civic amenities and privileges.

Shrinivas P.Dhondale,
Advocate
1849, 1st Floor, 5th 'A' Main Road,
Railway Parallel Road, Hampinagar,
Bengaluru-560 104

Date: 2nd June 2024

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No.: SWRTMYPR202425WT02
Dated: 24.05.2024

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tenders for the following work.

Name of Work	Appx. Value
Major repair works of UNIMAT 8269 machine.	Rs. 4,70,46,600/-

Last date for submission of bids:
Up to 11:00 hrs. of 26.06.2024

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Executive Engineer / Track Machines
Bengaluru

PUB/118/AAV/PRB/SWR/2024-25

South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD
3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009.

Short Term Tender Notification (Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

Karnataka Housing Board invites tenders from the eligible Pre qualified contractors in KHB through Karnataka Public Procurement portal for below mentioned works.

Last date for submission of bid: 10.06.2024 up to 4.00 PM

Sl. No.	Name of work	Work Indent & IFT No.	Amount put to tender in Rs.
1	Construction of Government First Grade College Building at Channagiri in Davanagere District under SDP 2021-22 Scheme.	Tender Reference Number: KHB/2023-24/BD/work_indent 173/CALL-2 & IFT No. 179/2023-24 Date: 31.05.2024	1,31,06,473/-
2	Construction of Government First Grade College Building Santebennur in at Davanagere District under SDP 2021-22 Scheme	Tender Reference Number: KHB/2023-24/BD/work_indent 174/CALL-2 & IFT No. 180/2023-24 Date: 31.05.2024	1,31,64,642/-
3	Construction of Auditorium to Government First Grade College at Soraba, Shivamogga District under SDP 2021-22 Scheme	Tender Reference Number: KHB/2023-24/BD/work_indent 193/CALL-2 & IFT No. 199/2023-24 Date: 31.05.2024	53,00,107/-
4	Construction of additional classrooms to Government First Grade College Building at Gundlupete, Chamarajanagara District under SDP 2021-22 Scheme.	Tender Reference Number: KHB/2023-24/BD/work_indent 201/CALL-2 & IFT No. 205/2023-24 Date: 31.05.2024	1,52,14,894/-

For further information, contact below mentioned office address **Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru, Telephone No. 080-22273511/080-22100077, website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

DIPR/CP/174/AKAR/2024-25

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Bengaluru

ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ, ಜಮಖಂಡಿ

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಕೃ.ಉ.ಮಾ.ಸ.(ಜ):ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ/58/2024–25 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 31–05–2024

: ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಸಂಕ್ಷಿಪ್ತ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ 2 ನೇ ಕರೆ :

RIDF-29ರ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಂಜೂರಾದ ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ, ಜಮಖಂಡಿಯ ಉಪ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಾವಳಗಿ ಪ್ರಾಂಗಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಂಪೌಂಡಗೋಡೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1999 & ನಿಯಮ–2000 ಹಾಗೂ ತನ್ನಂಬಧವಾಗಿ ಹೊರಡಿಸಿರುವ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಆದೇಶ ಸುತ್ತೋಲೆಗಳಂತೆ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ http://Kppp.karnataka.gov.in ರಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ಪರ್ಧಾತ್ಮಕ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರಗಳನ್ನು Standard Tender Documents KW-3 (with Latest amendments) ಷರತ್ತುಗಳನ್ವಯ ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಂತೆ ಟೆಂಡರ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಅ ನಂ	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು	ಟೆಂಡರಿಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರೋಸೆಸಿಂಗ್	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಅವಧಿ	ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ವರ್ಜಿ
1	RIDF-29ರ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಂಜೂರಾದ ಕೃಉಮಾಸ, ಜಮಖಂಡಿಯ ಉಪ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಾವಳಗಿ ಪ್ರಾಂಗಣಕ್ಕೆ ಕಂಪೌಂಡ್ ಗೋಡೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ	96,55,791.00 (Including GST)	1,93,200–00	ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ನಿಯಮಾವಳಿ ಪ್ರಕಾರ	90 ದಿನಗಳು (ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಹೊರತು ಪಡಿಸಿ)	As Per KPPP KW-3. Eligible Contractor

ಇ–ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣಾ ಪ್ರೋಸೆಸಿಂಗ್ ಶುಲ್ಕ ಹಾಗೂ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತವನ್ನು ಇ–ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಹೊಂದಿರುವ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಸೆಂಟ್ರಲ್ ಪೋಲಿಂಗ್ ಅಕೌಂಟಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ತಿಳಿಸಿರುವ ಯಾವುದಾದರೊಂದು ಮಾದರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂದಾಯ ಮಾಡುವುದು.

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳು :–1)ಟೆಂಡರ ಪೂರ್ವಭಾವಿ ಸಭೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ:– 05–06–2024 ರಂದು ಮುಂಜಾನೆ–12–30 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ. 2)ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 10–06–2024 ರಂದು ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 5–30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. 3)ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 12–06–2024 ರಂದು ಮುಂಜಾನೆ 12–30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. 4)ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 15–06–2024 ರಂದು ಮುಂಜಾನೆ 11–30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. 4) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ಸ್ಥಳ : ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ, ಜಮಖಂಡಿ

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಷರತ್ತುಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ರಜಾದಿನಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ, ಈ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯದ ಕಚೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ ಮೇಲೆ ಸೂಚಿಸಿದ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಅಥವಾ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 080–2550126, 080–25501227 ಹಾಗೂ ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ, ಜಮಖಂಡಿ ಇವರಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣ ನೀಡದೆ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಅಥವಾ ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸುವ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ಸಮಿತಿಯು ಕಾಯ್ದಿರಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/–(ಎ.ಎಮ್ ಮುಲ್ಲಾ)
ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ
ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ, ಜಮಖಂಡಿ.

ಸಹಿ/–(ಎಸ್.ಎಸ್ ಮಕ್ಕೋಜಿ)
ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು.
ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ, ಜಮಖಂಡಿ.

DIPR/BGK/RO-NO-08/KSMCA/2024-25

ON SONG

India warms up for the World Cup with an easy win over Bangladesh

AP

Hardik Pandya and Rishabh Pant shone in India's victory over Bangladesh in a T20 WC warm-up game in New York on Saturday. **The scores:** India 182/5 in 20 overs (Pant 53 retired out, Hardik 40 n.o.) bt Bangladesh 122/8 in 20 overs (Mahmudullah 40, Arshdeep 2/13, Dube 2/11).

FIGHTING FIT

Suryakumar shed 15kg to get in shape for T20 World Cup

PTI

Suryakumar Yadav is looking fitter than ever since his comeback to competitive cricket and much of it could be attributed to a regimented diet plan along with rigorous strength training to cut at least 12-14kg he had gained after sports hernia surgery. He was out of competitive cricket for close to four months.

NOT BURDENING THEM

Bumrah says he never tries to over-teach youngsters

ANI

Jasprit Bumrah says he never tries to "over-teach" the younger lot and steps in to help only when asked. Bumrah would also be expected to be a guiding force for India's pace battery, featuring Mohammed Siraj and Arshdeep Singh. "You don't try to over-teach. That is something that I have learned," Bumrah said.

COMPETITIVE

'Nepal and Netherlands have the firepower to upset some big teams'

X@KNCBCRICKET

Adam Gilchrist believes Nepal and the Netherlands could surprise teams in the T20 World Cup. "Nepal would be a team that might be able to fire a shot. They've got a couple of young players who have been in all the big leagues. The Dutch always seem to ruffle a few feathers, they always seem to get under the skin," Gilchrist said.

T20 World Cup sets foot in uncharted territory, hopes to cause ripple effect

The show-piece hopes to emulate the success of the football World Cup in 1994; the marquee event is a chance for unheralded teams to impress while the big boys will go for glory

Ashwin Achal
NEW YORK

Get set go: Aerial view of the Eisenhower Park, New York, which will witness some high-quality action in the next three weeks. AFP

The 1994 FIFA World Cup was a watershed moment for football in the United States of America (USA). The sport was not popular in the country at this time, and questions were asked on why a mega event was assigned to a host who could not tell football from soccer.

But by the end of the month long festivities, the verdict was clear. An overall spectator attendance of 3,587,538, at an average of 68,991 per game, set a new record. The success of the tournament led to the launch of Major League Soccer (MLS), which now counts Lionel Messi among its players. The tournament also inspired an entire generation of Americans to take up football as a career.

Ripple effect

The International Cricket Council (ICC) will believe that the 2024 ICC Men's T20 World Cup will cause a similarly positive ripple effect. Cricket in the USA – still a work in progress – could use the help.

At a minimum, a new audience gets the chance to experience world-class action. For the thousands who live in the USA with roots in India, Pakistan and other cricket-playing nations, this can create memories for a lifetime. The financials are lucrative as well, as expats are willing to spend big bucks on tickets.

The new venues will test the players' ability to adapt. Construction at the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium in New York, for instance, was completed only recently. A drop-in pitch arrived a few days ago, and a sole warm-up match is the only indicator on how surface could behave.

Front-runners

The business half – Super 8s, semifinals and the final – will be held entirely in the West Indies. A more familiar setting for cricket fans, the Caribbean islands last held a World Cup in 2010.

India should have no trouble getting past Group-A and into Barbados – the venue for its first Super 8 outing. Even if the Pakistan clash does not go its way, Ireland, Canada and USA are unlikely to offer much resistance.

Co-host West Indies, a two-time T20 World Cup champion, could go all the way. Home conditions and an eleven tailor-made for T20 will frighten opponents.

Reigning 50-over world champion Australia reserves its best for the big occasions. And if Travis Head throws the kitchen sink in the Powerplay like he did in the IPL, it is game over.

Defending champion England depends on express pacers Jofra Archer and Mark Wood to pummel batters into submission. Captain Jos Buttler, among the players who missed the latter stages of the IPL to play a four-match T20I series against Pakistan, is a menace with the bat.

While the favourites put the blinders on in pursuit of victory, the expanded tournament field gives unheralded teams and cricketers the rare chance to step onto the big stage. We get to hear the story of Uganda's Frank Nsubuga, who at 43 is the oldest player in the tournament. This is the crowning moment for Nsubuga, who has spent his 27-year cricket career in obscurity.

The 2024 ICC Men's T20 World Cup has something in it for all.

Global T20 carnival

As the shortest format's biggest ICC spectacle begins in the Americas on Sunday, here's the complete programme:

GROUP A	GROUP B	GROUP C	GROUP D
Canada	Australia	Afghanistan	Bangladesh
India	Engand	New Zealand	Nepal
Ireland	Namibia	Papua New Guinea	Netherlands
Pakistan	Oman	Uganda	South Africa
USA	Scotland	West Indies	Sri Lanka

The top two teams from each group will progress to the Super Eight stage which will be followed by the semifinals and final

GROUP STAGE

DATE	TEAMS	TIME	VENUE
June 2	USA vs Canada	6 a.m.	Dallas
June 2	WI vs PNG	8 p.m.	Guyana
June 3	Namibia vs Oman	6 a.m.	Barbados
June 3	SL vs SA	8 p.m.	New York
June 4	Afg vs Uganda	6 a.m.	Guyana
June 4	Eng vs Sco	8 p.m.	Barbados
June 4	Ned vs Nepal	9 p.m.	Dallas
June 5	**Ind vs Irl**	**8 p.m.**	**New York**
June 6	PNG vs Uganda	5 a.m.	Guyana
June 6	Aus vs Oman	6 a.m.	Barbados
June 6	USA vs Pak	9 p.m.	Dallas
June 7	Namibia vs Sco	12.30 a.m.	Barbados
June 7	Canada vs Irl	8 p.m.	New York
June 8	NZ vs Afg	5 a.m.	Guyana
June 8	SL vs Bangladesh	6 a.m.	Dallas
June 8	Ned vs SA	8 p.m.	New York
June 8	Aus vs Eng	10.30 p.m.	Barbados
June 9	WI vs Uganda	6 a.m.	Guyana
June 9	**Ind vs Pak**	**8 p.m.**	**New York**
June 9	Oman vs Sco	10.30 p.m.	Antigua
June 10	SA vs Bangladesh	8 p.m.	New York
June 11	Pak vs Canada	8 p.m.	New York
June 12	SL vs Nep	5 a.m.	Florida
June 12	Aus vs Namibia	6 a.m.	Antigua
June 12	**USA vs Ind**	**8 p.m.**	**New York**
June 13	WI vs NZ	6 a.m.	Tarouba
June 13	Bangladesh vs Ned	8 p.m.	St. Vincent
June 14	Eng vs Oman	12.30 a.m.	Antigua
June 14	Afg vs PNG	6 a.m.	Tarouba
June 14	USA vs Irl	8 p.m.	Florida
June 15	SA vs Nep	5 a.m.	St. Vincent
June 15	NZ vs Uganda	6 a.m.	Tarouba
June 15	**Ind vs Canada**	**8 p.m.**	**Florida**
June 15	Namibia vs Eng	10.30 p.m.	Antigua
June 16	Aus vs Sco	6 a.m.	St. Lucia
June 16	Pak vs Irl	8 p.m.	Florida
June 17	Bangladesh vs Nep	5 a.m.	St. Vincent
June 17	SL vs Ned	6 a.m.	St. Lucia
June 17	NZ vs PNG	8 p.m.	Tarouba
June 18	WI vs Afg	6 a.m.	St. Lucia
SUPER EIGHT			
June 19	A2 vs D1	8 p.m.	Antigua
June 20	B1 vs C2	6 a.m.	St. Lucia
June 20	C1 vs A1	8 p.m.	Barbados
June 21	B2 vs D2	6 a.m.	Antigua
June 21	B1 vs D1	8 p.m.	St. Lucia
June 22	A2 vs C2	6 a.m.	Barbados
June 22	A1 vs D2	8 p.m.	Antigua
June 23	C1 vs B2	6 a.m.	St. Vincent
June 23	A2 vs B1	8 p.m.	Barbados
June 24	C2 vs D1	6 a.m.	Antigua
June 24	B2 vs A1	8 p.m.	St. Lucia
June 25	C1 vs D2	6 a.m.	St. Vincent
THE KNOCKOUTS			
June 27	**Semifinal 1**	**6 a.m.**	**Tarouba**
June 27	**Semifinal 2**	**8 p.m.**	**Guyana**
June 29	**Final**	**8 p.m.**	**Barbados**

**All times IST*

USA-Canada revive their rivalry while Windies takes on Papua New Guinea

Press Trust of India
GEORGETOWN (GUYANA)

More than eight years after Carlos Brathwaite's four sixes at Eden Gardens gave it its second T20 World Cup title, a wounded West Indies will look to redeem itself at home when it begins its campaign in the event's ninth edition by taking on Papua New Guinea, here on Sunday.

Darren Sammy is back as a coach and the Rovman Powell-led side already made its intention clear with a ruthless win over Australia in a warm-up match.

WI will also be looking to become the first team to win a T20 World Cup at home.

Assadollah Vala-led PNG is making its second appearance after 2021 after sealing its spot via the East Asia-Pacific regional final in July 2023.

A team full of expatriates, tournament co-hosts USA, coached by former Australian batter Stuart Law, will promise some surprises when it kicks off the T20 WC taking on qualifiers Canada in a battle of debutants. .

Today's matches

Dallas, 6.00 a.m.
HEAD-TO-HEAD T20Is
Played: 7
USA 5 | Canada 2

Guyana, 8.00 p.m.
West Indies vs Papua New Guinea
HEAD-TO-HEAD T20Is
First Meeting

Zverev survives a scare; Sabalenka dispatches best friend Badosa; Rybakina too advances

FRENCH OPEN

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

What a relief! Zverev came back from 1-4 down in the decider against Griekspoor. GETTY IMAGES

Alexander Zverev came back from the brink of defeat to reach the French Open last 16 for a seventh successive year on Saturday. World number four Zverev came through against Tallon Griekspoor 3-6, 6-4, 6-2, 4-6, 7-6(3) despite trailing the Dutchman 1-4 in the decider.

Fifth seed Daniil Medvedev beat Tomas Machac 7-6 (4), 7-5, 1-6, 6-4 to reach the last 16 for the third time.

Canada's Felix Auger-Aliassime booked a fourth round clash against Carlos Alcaraz after sweeping past Ben Shelton of the United States 6-4, 6-2, 6-1 in one of three ties which had been suspended on Friday.

World number two Aryna Sabalenka, however, had the advantage of playing under the roof of Court Philippe Chatrier where she stormed back to defeat close friend Paula Badosa.

Two-time Australian Open champion Sabalenka downed the Spaniard 7-5, 6-1 by reeling off 10 of the last 11 games.

"I just tried to play my best, play for every point. I knew I could come back," said Sabalenka.

Elena Rybakina advanced to the last 16 with a 6-4, 6-2 victory over Belgium's Elise Mertens.

Chinese seventh seed Zheng Qinwen, meanwhile, lost in three sets to Russia's Elina Avanesyan.

TOP RESULTS

Women: Third round: Varvara Gracheva (Rus) bt Irina-Camelia Begu (Rom) 7-5, 6-3; 4-Elena Rybakina (Kaz) bt 25-Elise Mertens (Bel) 6-4, 6-2; 2-Aryna Sabalenka (Blr) bt Paula Badosa (Esp) 7-5, 6-1; Elina Avanesyan (Rus) bt 7-Zheng Qinwen (Chn) 3-6, 6-3, 7-6(6); Mirra Andreeva (Rus) bt Peyton Stearns (USA) 6-2, 6-1.

Men: Third round: 4-Alexander Zverev (Ger) bt 26-Tallon Griekspoor (Ned) 3-6, 6-4, 6-2, 4-6, 7-6(3); 11-Alex De Minaur (Aus) bt Jan-Lennard Struff (Ger) 4-6, 6-4, 6-3, 6-3; 5-Daniil Medvedev (Rus) bt Tomas Machac (Cze) 7-6(4), 7-5, 1-6, 6-4; 21-Felix Auger-Aliassime (Can) bt 15-Ben Shelton (USA) 6-4, 6-2, 6-1; 8-Hubert Hurkacz (Pol) bt Denis Shapovalov (Can) 6-3, 7-6(0), 4-6, 6-1.

Doubles: Second round: Miguel Angel Reyes-Varela (Mex) & N. Sriram Balaji (Ind) bt Dan Added & Theo Arribage (Fra) 6-4, 3-6, 6-2.

INBRIEF

Shuttler Tanvi wins Bonn International tournament

Young Indian shuttler Tanvi Sharma defeated Wang Pei Yu of Chinese Taipei in two games to clinch title win in the Bonn International tournament, a part of the BWF's Future Series, here on Saturday. Tanvi, who is ranked 181st in the world, recorded a 21-19, 22-20 victory. The Indian women's doubles pair of Srinidhi Narayanan and Radhika Sharma lost to Turkish pair of Yasemen Bektas and Zehra Erdem 21-17, 21-10. In men's doubles, Prakash Raj and Gouse Sheik lost to the Dutch combination of Noah Haase Dyon van Wijlick 21-19, 21-16.

Aditi makes the cut at U.S. Women's Open golf

India's Aditi Ashok shot 1-over 71 to move into the weekend rounds here at the US Women's Open golf. Putting alongside her 3-over 74 on the first day, Aditi was 4-over and tied-24 on the leaderboard. Only four players were under par after 36 holes as scoring continued to remain tough. World No. 158 Wichanee Meechai of Thailand rose to the top as she followed her first-round 69 with a 67 and was 4-under. Nelly Korda's bid for a third Major title ended in disappointment after the world No. 1 missed the cut.

Everton's proposed sale to 777 Partners falls through

Miami-based private investment firm 777 Partners has failed to conclude a deal for the purchase of Everton, the Premier League club said on Saturday. In September, 777 reached a deal to buy out Everton's majority shareholder, Farhad Moshiri, who has a 94.1% stake in the club.

Treesa and Gayatri's run ends with semifinal loss

Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopi Chand's stunning run at the Singapore Open came to an end with a straight game loss to World No 4. pair Nami Matsuyama and Chiharu Shida in semifinals here on Saturday. With the defeat, India's campaign at the BWF World Tour Super 750 also ended. Eyeing a hat-trick of wins against top-10 players, the unseeded Indians were no match for the Japanese who cruised to a 23-21, 21-11 win in 47 minutes.

LIVE TELECAST

Badminton: Singapore Open, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & JioCinema, 11.30 a.m.

Roland Garros: Sony Sports Ten 2, 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 2.30 p.m.

Hockey: Pro League: Great Britain vs India (Men), Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & JioCinema, 5 p.m.

T20 World Cup: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 8 p.m. & 6 a.m. (Monday)

Dinesh Karthik bows out after an illustrious and multifaceted career

The glovesman transformed himself into being one of the best finishers in T20s in the twilight of his playing days

CRICKET

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
CHENNAI

Indian cricket's seemingly eternal man finally hung his boots. Add wicket-keeping gloves and a blistering bat too while the commentator's microphone, immediately, and perhaps a coaching assignment, later, beckon.

On Saturday, Dinesh Karthik posted his retirement note on social media, telling the world that it is time for him to bow out while recording his gratitude to all who supported him, be it family or the cricketing eco-system. Having turned out for India for the first time in 2004, he kept weaving in and out of the squad, both in whites and the blue shade until the final tilt in 2022.

The numbers may never fully tell his tale but to be a wicket-keeper batter with a long career coinciding with M.S. Dhoni, Parthiv Patel, Wriddhiman Saha, Sanju Samson and Rishabh Pant, at different points, is a testimony to Karthik's desire to constantly excel and be ready for selection.

He even turned out as a pure batter. If it was the orthodox opener role in Tests during the initial phase, the metamorphosis to becoming the dashing finisher, revealed Karthik's desire to push the wheel and reinvent.

A regular presence in the Indian Premier League since its inception from 2008, Karthik found a glorious tail-wind with the Royal Challengers Bengaluru, a franchise and fanbase that embraced him as their own. The statistics of 26 Tests, 94 ODIs and 60 T20Is with a cumulative yield of 3463 International runs, 151 catches and 21 stumpings besides his quality duty for Tamil Nadu, are nuggets that perhaps may not fully display what Karthik meant for the squads he turned up.

He proved to be a bridge between the Sachin Tendulkar generation and the current one with Jasprit Bumrah leading the charge.

There was the dismissal of Michael Vaughan, body airborne and the stumps whipped off, there was the fiery winning cameo in the Nidahas Trophy final, and in all this Karthik remained busy, always finding a way to cheer up his team-mates.

A hyper-energetic presence in his early days, the fidgety streak gradually ebbed away as both his cricket and words acquired depth.

As an adolescent playing age-group zonal cricket in Bengaluru, thanks to the National Cricket Academy, he was egged on by his mother, arriving from Chennai in a car and keeping an eye on her son.

He always had the buzz and now as he retires as an ICC Twenty20 2007 winner, the world is again his stage.

At 39, he will deal with it in words as a commentator, while his former team-mates belt out the sixes.

Career in numbers

As Dinesh Karthik announced his retirement, let's take a closer look at his stats across the formats

Span	Mat	Runs	HS	Avg	SR	100s	Ct	St
Tests	26	1,025	129	25.00	49.27	1	57	6
ODIs	94	1,752	79	30.20	73.24	0	64	7
T20Is	60	686	55	26.38	142.61	0	30	8
IPL	257	4,842	97*	26.32	135.36	0	145	37

FILE PHOTO: V.V.KRISHNAN

Being relevant: Karthik's longevity can be put down to his desire to push the wheel and reinvent according to the team and time's needs.

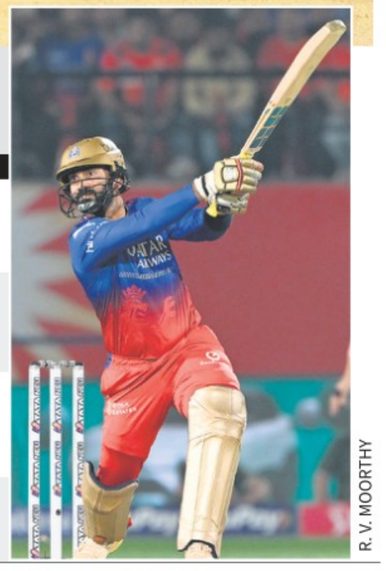
Twitter reactions

Royal Challengers Bengaluru: We love you, DK! Thank you for all the wonderful memories. Happy retirement. @DineshKarthik

Sachin Tendulkar: No more diving catches, but plenty of catchy insights! As you transition into a career in commentary, I hope your words go the distance, much like your sixes did. Happy birthday, @DineshKarthik!

BCCI: 180 intl. matches 3463 intl. runs 172 dismissals ICC T20 World Cup Winner and countless memories. Congratulations on an incredible career, @DineshKarthik

IPL: Thanks for all the entertainment over the years, @DineshKarthik. Congratulations on a remarkable cricketing journey



R. V. MOORTHY

Indian shooters prepare in Munich for Olympics

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

Indian shooting will get into the final stretch of preparation for the Olympics with the World Cup in Munich on Sunday.

The air rifle shooters, four each in the men's and women's section will be competing in the regular as well as Ranking Points Only (RPO) sections.

The final selection for Paris may not have been announced yet, but the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) is trying to keep the cream of Indian shooting ready. World champion Rudrankksh Patil, Sandeep Singh and former world No.1 Divyansh Singh Panwar will compete in the regular section, and fight for medals in men's air rifle. Arjun Babuta opted to be in the RPO section.

In the women's section, Elavenil Valarivan, Ramita Jindal and Tilottama Sen will compete in the regular section, while World Championship silver medallist Mehuli Ghosh will be in the RPO section. After the World Cup, the rifle and pistol shooters are also scheduled to have a camp in Paris.

For the 16 Olympic quota places in rifle and pistol, which could get reduced to 15 if Manu Bhaker gets the nod for both air pistol and sports pistol, we could actually have another six to eight shooters ready to jump in, if required.

Jaismine enters 57kg quarters; Siwach loses in last-four stage

BOXING QUALIFIERS

Sports Bureau

Jaismine Lamboria reached the women's 57kg quarterfinals to move closer to winning a quota place, while Sachin Siwach lost his men's 57kg semifinal bout in the second World Olympic boxing qualifiers in Bangkok on Saturday.

Jaismine recorded a convincing 5-0 win over Switzerland's Ana Marija Milisic in the pre-quarterfinals.

The lanky southpaw began cautiously before showcasing her control. Using her long reach, Commonwealth Games bronze medallist Jaismine connected her right jabs and combinations cleanly through counter-attacks.

Her movement and ring craft kept her safe.

After securing the first two rounds, Jaismine was more confidence as she sprayed a flurry of punches towards the close to emerge as the clear winner.

She will meet Mali's Marine Camara in the last eight on Sunday. A win will help her reclaim the quota place India had lost due to Parveen Hooda's whereabouts failure.

In an exciting contest, Strandja Memorial gold medallist Siwach lost to Philippine's Tokyo Olympic silver medallist in 51kg Carlo Paalam 5-0.

Siwach, the taller of the two, gave his best but could not stop the compact Filipino, whose fast, powerful and calculated punching earned him the bout and a ticket to Paris.

Siwach will get another opportunity to get a Paris berth as he will face the other losing semifinalist Kyrgyzstan's Munarbek Seitbek Uulu for the third slot.

Delhi joins Chennai and Singapore in the race

CHESS

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Delhi has joined Chennai and Singapore in the race to host the World Championship match between D. Gukesh and China's Ding Liren after the All India Chess Federation backed the national capital's bid while accusing the Tamil Nadu government of acting unilaterally by pushing the southern city's name.

The International Chess Federation (FIDE) CEO Emil Sutovsky on Saturday said all three cities have submitted their bids and they "meet the criteria".

Sutovsky added Chennai was the first to bid for the much-anticipated match in November-December this year, while the New Delhi bid came in last.

The winner will be announced later this month.

Manu wins javelin gold at Taiwan Open

ATHLETICS

Sports Bureau

D.P. Manu, who is well placed on the 14th rung on the Road to the Paris Olympics chart, came up with another good 81.58m effort in the last round to win the javelin throw gold comfortably at the Taiwan Athletics Open in Taipei on Saturday.

Asian silver medallist Manu, the World No. 12 who was sixth at last year's World Championships in Budapest, had three 80-plus throws in the meet which was a part of the World Athletics Continental Tour (bronze event).

The host's Asian record-holder Chao Tsun-Cheng, the first Asian to cross 90m (PB 91.36m, 2017), took the silver with 76.21m.

Javelin throw will be a 32-man event at the Paris Olympics and nine athletes, including Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra and the other Indian Kishore Kumar Jena, have made the automatic qualification standard of 85.50m. And those who fail to make the automatic standard will hope to get in through the world rankings route.

Manu. FILE PHOTO

Meanwhile V.K. Vismaya, a member of the gold-winning women's 4x400m team at the 2018 Jakarta Asian Games but who has been struggling for the last few years, clocked a season-best 53.49s to take the women's 400m bronze.

Sri Lankan Dissanayake Tharushi Karunarathna, the Asian Games 800m champion, took the gold in 52.48s while her compatriot, Asian gold medallist Nadeesha Ramanayake, was fourth (53.93).

Nithya Ramraj won the women's 100m hurdles silver with 13.23s while Rosy Meena Paulraj, the women's pole vault national record holder (4.21m, 2022), was a disappointing sixth with 3.75m.

And at the Music City Track Carnival at Nashville, USA, Asian Games bronze medallist Priti took the women's 3000m steeple chase silver in 9:48.26s while Asian bronze medallist Ankita (15:39.10s) won the women's 5000m silver and Seema finished fourth (16:18.23).

Tyson fight postponed following health scare

Agence France-Presse
LOS ANGELES

Mike Tyson's upcoming return to the ring against YouTuber Jake Paul on July 20 has been postponed after the former heavyweight champion's recent health scare, organisers said on Friday.

Tyson needed medical treatment on board a flight from Miami to Los Angeles on Sunday after complaining of nausea and dizziness. Medical professionals had recommended Tyson do only minimal training in the coming weeks.

KARNATAKA ROUND-UP

Vidhat's six-for sets up Visweswarapuram's win

S. Vidhat took six wickets (6/20) as Visweswarapuram CC defeated Jawans by three wickets in a KSCA U-16 (Group I) inter-club tournament in Bengaluru.

The scores: BUCC (1) 162 in 41.1 overs (Yash Rajanna 26, B. Aarav Adiga 33) lost to Jawahar SC (1) 166/5 in 29.1 overs (Tej Jaganath 40, Sameer Deepak Godhi 30, Abhinav Jha 54 n.o., M.C. Mourya 27, Aryansh Singh 3/57).

Visweswarapuram (2) 201 in 45.1 overs (Akshaj Kathuria 95, Rajit Kanjilal 49, Arnav Ravindra Dere 4/39) bt Rajajinagar Cricketers 187 in 48.2 overs (Shiven Gupta 34, Niranjan Ashok 32, Arindam Kumar Sharma 29, Arnav Ravindra Dere 29, Rajit Kanjilal 3/32, Ashith Kumar Gowda 4/19).

Jawans 112 in 30.1 overs (Harshit Arun Mishra 30 n.o., Chayanveer Sharma 3/43, S. Vidhat 6/20) lost to Visweswarapuram (1) 116/7 in 34.0 overs (Tanay Dalmia 26, Harshit Arun Mishra 4/29, Vihaan Shivakumar 3/28).

Mohith, Jade progress to quarterfinals

Singles top seeds Mohith Gowda and Jade Anil safely progressed to the quarterfinals of the Yonex Sunrise Karnataka state-ranking badminton tournament being held in Shivamogga.

The results (round-of-16):

Men: Mohith Gowda bt Srikar Rajesh 21-7, 21-7. **Women:** Jade Anil bt Purvi P. Baavikatte 21-15, 21-11.

U-19: Boys: Abhinav Garg bt Rehan Aariz 21-6, 21-14. **Girls:** Rujula Ramu bt Gargi Deekshith 21-11, 21-7.

India thrashes an out-of-sorts young German side

FIH PRO LEAGUE

Press Trust Of India
LONDON

India exploited a rusty German defence, scoring three goals as the Harmanpreet Singh-led side outclassed the World champion 3-0 to make a winning start to the London leg of the FIH Pro League hockey here on Saturday.

Drag-flicker Harmanpreet (16th minute), Sukhjeet Singh (41st) and Gurjant Singh (44th) tormented an out-of-sorts young German side, which started off on a roaring note but could not sustain the momentum for long.

World No. 5 India, with 24 points from 13 outings, is third, while Argentina, whom India defeated twice during the Antwerp-leg, is second with 26 points from 14 matches. Netherlands is leading the table with 26 points from 12 games.

Finding the target: Gurjant celebrates after scoring India's third goal. GETTY IMAGES

Goalkeeper P.R. Sreejesh was rock-solid against a relentless German attack in the first quarter, thwarting two penalty corners before Harmanpreet's penalty corner conversion in the first minute of the second quarter turned the tables on Germany.

The India skipper's low flick aimed to the left of German goalkeeper Alexander Stadler took a deflection off the first rusher Barry Antheus before sounding the board in the 16th minute.

Sukhjeet then doubled the lead in the 41st. Picking up the ball on the wing, he gave a through pass to Abhishek and made a dash to the circle. Abhishek relayed the ball back to Sukhjeet, who unleashed an unstoppable shot past the German custodian.

Gurjant then lined up the third goal for India three minutes later. Sanjay passed the ball to Jarmanpreet Singh on the goalline and the defender flicked it back to Gurjant, who scooped it past Stadler to signal India's dominance.

All along, Germany tried its best to breach the Indian defence but to no avail with Sreejesh showcasing his capabilities.

Germany earned a dozen penalty corners but all were wasted. Sreejesh too played his role to perfection, thwarting three attempts – two off penalty corners – in the first quarter.

India will take on Germany again on June 8 and meet Great Britain on June 2 and 9.

The result: India 3 (Harmanpreet 16-PC, Sukhjeet 41, Gurjant Singh 44) bt Germany 0.